



## Business and Education Media Alert

# One World, One Sky with Big Bird

## Miami Valley Child Development Center's Head Start Program Preschool Learning Adventure

January 25, 2012, Springfield, Ohio – We came. We saw. We were star struck.

“Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” was heard echoing in harmony from within the big blue, planetarium. Inside the dome were a couple dozen 3-5 year old preschool children exploring the night sky while learning age appropriate, academic skills. Teachers and a few parents came along to enjoy the 45-minute show as well. But the attraction was not outdoors. It was inside a school gym thanks to a special traveling mobile learning show sponsored in part by PNC Bank.



“One World, One Sky: Big Bird’s Adventure” features Big Bird, Elmo, and their friend from China, Hu Hu Zhu. Through the children’s imagination and the effects of a panoramic screen, the children enjoyed astrology and a ride to space where they located the Big Dipper, North Star, and moon. They learned how the environments of the moon and earth differ. The cross-cultural adventure continued with Big Bird, Elmo, and Hu Hu Zhu—all living in different countries—discovering they share the same sky. Academic learning principles include science, math, geometry, physics, music, cross-cultural language, and social skills.

Throughout the day, multiple classrooms from Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.’s Clark County Head Start programs attended one of the five shows. After each show, children received a special sticker and a daytime/nighttime glow-in-the-dark poster to take home. The poster captures the show’s trilingual messages (English, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish).

Mary Burns, president and CEO, expressed her appreciation to PNC Bank and Ready Set Soar for their roles in bringing the mobile exhibit to Springfield. “We are very pleased with the outcomes from 2011 when this exhibit was shown to preschool children in Montgomery County. The children loved it! We are glad that it could be expanded to our Clark/Springfield early child development centers this year”, added Burns.

Teachers prepared students for the event with a special astronomy based curriculum. Follow up classroom activities will enhance the learning experience.

The traveling learning experience was created by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street®, and its partners, with major funding from the PNC Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

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#### **ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.**

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. was incorporated in 1964 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The agency began providing comprehensive Head Start services to low income children ages three to five years in 1965. Today, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is funded to serve 2,421 children ages 3-5 years and 388 children ages 0-3 in Clark, Madison, and Montgomery Counties, Ohio. Funding is provided through the US Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; and the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education. The agency manages 50 center locations and employs 450 employees.

MVDC's program outcomes focus on school readiness for children ages birth to five. Each child is assessed at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the year. Results are regularly reviewed and tabulated to determine each child's progress and what is required for continued development. Most services benefit families of low income.

A primary focus at MVDC is to promote successful families by teaching parenting and life skills, and to ensure children are ready to learn in kindergarten. A holistic and balanced approach is taken to work with each child and their family in the areas of parent engagement, health, nutrition, social competency, literacy, and numeracy development.

#### **ABOUT Head Start**

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. More than 22 million preschool aged children have benefited from Head Start.

#### **About Sesame Street® “One World, One Sky: Big Bird’s Adventure”**

*One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure* is a cross-cultural planetarium show geared toward children ages 4 to 6. Through the lens of astronomy, children join Elmo, Big Bird and Hu Hu Zhu - a Muppet from the Chinese co-production of Sesame Street® - to explore the night sky. The planetarium experience aims to provide young children in the U.S. and China with an age-appropriate introduction to astronomy, to promote positive attitudes toward science, and to foster cross-cultural appreciation. The show was created by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street®, and its partners, with major funding from the PNC Foundation and the National Science Foundation. Additional support for *One World, One Sky* comes from the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

**About Sesame Street® “Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky”**

The *Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky* mobile planetarium tour features an inflatable dome where children ages 4-6 view the *One World, One Sky: Big Bird’s Adventure* planetarium show. The portable dome travels throughout markets served by PNC to early childhood education centers and other organizations where children would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit a planetarium.

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