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Rainbow Connection Children Take A Holiday Ride on the Polar Express!

Rochester, Mi., November 12, 2008-All aboard the Polar Express! 120 wish children from The Rainbow Connection, the local charity granting wishes to Michigan children with life threatening illnesses, will have a holiday dream come true as they climb aboard the Polar Express with visions of the North Pole! The children and their families will experience an incredible holiday train ride filled with fun, laughter, and special holiday guests. The train ride is modeled after the popular holiday book, The Polar Express, a magical children's story of a little boy questioning his belief in Santa Claus and his own adventure on the Polar Express bound for the North Pole where he gets a peek at Santa Claus and his elves at work on Christmas Eve. The book is read aloud and acted out for the children as the train speeds along and the whistle blows.

All of this is made possible and donated by Clinton Township Parks and Recreation department along with the Michigan Transit Museum who host the Polar Express ride for these very special children on Saturday November 29. Since 2002 Clinton Township Parks and Recreation has worked with Michigan Transit Museum to bring this wonderful gift to the children at The Rainbow Connection. Each year the wish children wait for that special invitation in the mail for this magical journey that takes a sick child and their family away from the illness and medical treatments that have become a part of their lives. Josie is going on the train again this year and says she is certain she saw Santa out the train window last year. Mary Grace McCarter, Executive Director at The Rainbow Connection has already reserved a seat next to Josie, hoping to catch a glimpse of St. Nick! "The holidays are a special time where even the busiest of us take a moment to count our blessings and reach out to help our neighbors. The diagnosis of a life threatening illness throws the entire family into survival mode with the illness consuming every moment of every day. The Polar Express offers a holiday adventure, laughter and incredible memories for everyone.

The Rainbow Connection is a Michigan-based 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to granting wishes for children who are literally fighting for their lives. To date, The Rainbow Connection has granted over 1900 wishes to children across

Michigan suffering from life-threatening or terminal illnesses. From something as simple as a new computer to meeting the President of the United States at the White House, to the most requested wish of all, a trip to Disney World, we grant wishes throughout the year.

The Rainbow Connection is also more than a wish. We offer support services, information and referral, special holiday get-togethers and picnics, and college scholarships for wish children. The Rainbow Connection receives no federal funds and depends exclusively on the kind generosity of our supporters. Eighty-nine cents of every dollar goes to granting Michigan children a wish. For more information call 248-601-9474 or go online at www.rainbowconnection.org

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