



NEWS RELEASE

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**Community wine and chocolate event donates portion of proceeds
to Utica Children's Museum**

Utica, N.Y. – On Saturday, April 9, 2016, Utica's annual wine and chocolate festival will be hosted at the Utica Auditorium. One dollar from every wine bottle sold at the festival, will be donated to the Utica Children's Museum.

The festival will occur between 3p.m.-9p.m. and ticket sales are limited. The tickets cost \$25 for wine samplers and \$10 for designated drivers. The festival includes a variety of treats, gifts and services for attendees to look through. There will be a variety of wine from across New York State to sample from. This will help people find the wine they love for future purchases. Everyone who attends gets to take home a free wine glass. There will be no additional charges, so attendees can taste as much as they wish.

"We are delighted to receive this type of community support," said Utica Children's Museum Executive Director Elizabeth Brando, "and this event is a wonderful way for us to meet more members of the public and talk about the exciting changes that are happening. Thank you to First Source for providing us with this opportunity to raise critical funds for our education programs."

Jessica Bickford-Manson, Visitor Services Manager, said money raised would go towards the purchase of materials for future programs such as "fairy dough" and sensory-based messy art play. Funds will also be used towards the upgrade of exhibits to be more hands-on, as well as add more exhibits.

Tickets are available online, as well as Seneca Wine & Liquor in New Hartford, Liquor in North Utica and Bostwick Liquors in Rome. There will also be free cab rides home from this event, which is provided by an outside sponsor.

The Utica Children's Museum was founded in 1963 and is housed in a beautiful historic building located in the heart of Utica's downtown Bagg's Square district. The Museum currently offers approximately 60 exhibits and experiences throughout four floors of play space. The Museum is in the process of being transformed into a hands-on, interactive destination that will impact more than 100,000 visitors over the next five years. Visit us on the web at www.UticaCM.org or check out our Facebook at www.facebook.com/uticachildrensmuseum?fref=ts

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