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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TALLAHASSEE MUSEUM AND JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TALLAHASSEE
PARTNER TO BUILD NEW PLAYGROUND**

Tallahassee, FL – The **Tallahassee Museum** announced today that the **Junior League of Tallahassee** is taking the lead in a “community built” playground to be constructed at the Museum. This event will take place May 4 through May 7. Similar to an old fashioned “Barn Raising” this educational playscape will call upon the support of the entire community in order to become a reality and make our children’s dreams come true.

Carla Lunny, President of the Junior League of Tallahassee said that “the Tallahassee Museum holds a special place in the heart of our members. Not only was the Junior League of Tallahassee one of the Museum’s founding organizations, many of us grew up going to the Museum and are excited to work on a project that will improve the lives of our children. I encourage the community to join us on our build weekend to help in any way they can.”

Learning Structures, Inc. of Somersworth, New Hampshire was hired to design and coordinate the construction of the playground. Using ideas already gathered from local children and the community Learning Structures has created a design that will be a *one-of-a-kind* playground tied to the Museum’s mission.

The overall playground design incorporates a number of entertaining and interactive elements that focus on providing educational content, all related to the Big Bend region, in a fun and entertaining way. Every element of this playground will serve to reinforce

the Museum's mission of promoting knowledge and understanding of the Big Bend's cultural history and natural environment, inspiring people to enrich their lives and build a better community.

The playground will replace and be more than twice the size of the Museum's current playground, meet all current playground safety and accessibility standards, and offer far more experiences than any normal playground. Designed to meet the interests of children from preschool up to age 12, it will truly offer a unique experience!

This project will be totally constructed by volunteers and requires the help of many people both skilled and unskilled. "What a great sense of pride you will receive from working with your community neighbors to build this very unique playground" stated **Beth DuMond**, Junior League of Tallahassee volunteer coordinator for the project.

In addition, volunteers are needed for food preparation, construction labor and more! Donations of tools, equipment, building materials and cash are also sought from community businesses and individuals. Everyone is invited to participate... individuals, businesses, organizations, family members, and the community at large.

Fundraising is well under way with a major lead gift from the **Junior League of Tallahassee**, but much more is needed. Your contribution is an investment both in supporting the Museum and by offering children a safe and educational play space. Financial contributions are gratefully accepted as well as in-kind donations that support the materials needed to construct the playground.

Russell Daws, Executive Director/CEO of the Tallahassee Museum said "as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2007, we are so grateful for the continued support of the Junior League of Tallahassee. There is a long history of partnership between our two organizations and we are delighted to once again be working together to improve the lives of children and families in our community."

Your help is needed to make this project a success. Together we can make a difference!

For more information about volunteering or providing food or monetary contributions, please contact the Junior League of Tallahassee at 224-9161. For the donation of building materials, tools and equipment please call the Tallahassee Museum at 575-8684.

The Tallahassee Museum is a non profit organization located on 52-acres located in SW Tallahassee on beautiful Lake Bradford (3945 Museum Drive) where history, nature, and wildlife are intertwined to tell an intriguing story about Florida's natural and cultural history. This unique Museum, 1880s farmstead, historical buildings, natural habitat zoo and scenic grounds provides hands-on learning and entertainment for all ages. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM and Sundays from 12:30 PM until 5:00 PM. Admission Fees: \$8/Adults, \$7.50/Seniors (65+) & College Students (with valid ID); \$5.50/Children (4-15); and free for Kids 3 and under. ADMISSION IS FREE FOR MEMBERS. For more information: (850) 575-8684 or www.tallahasseemuseum.org

The Junior League of Tallahassee is a non profit organization of women committed to improving the lives of children and families through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. With its purpose being exclusively educational and charitable, the Junior League of Tallahassee contributes more than 5,000 volunteer hours and thousands of dollars to our community on an annual basis. Proceeds acquired through various fundraisers benefit local area children and their family's specific needs. Please visit <http://www.jltallahassee.org> for more information.

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