



# press release

211 GERVAIS STREET COLUMBIA SC 29201 | 803-400-1166 | kbarnes@edventure.org

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Media Contact: Kristy Barnes

803.400.1166 / kbarnes@edventure.org

## **EDVENTURE AWARDED GRANT OF MORE THAN \$700K FOR FIRE&LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION FEMA Grant Funds Construction and Renovation of Interactive Exhibits and Educational Outreach**

COLUMBIA, SC– Sept 12, 2012–EdVenture Children’s Museum is pleased to announce the award of a \$773,600 grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support fire and life safety exhibits and educational outreach. Working closely with the Division of Fire and Life Safety of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, EdVenture will use this grant to renovate the Dalmatian Station exhibit that has served as the centerpiece of this collaboration and educates more than 200,000 children, parents, and teachers annually. The grant will also support the development of a new 4-D Home Safe Home Theater experience which will educate school groups and families on the risks of fire within the home and how to prevent them. In addition, the grant will fund educational outreach and support to families with individuals with hearing impairments.

According to U.S. Fire Administration, SC ranks ninth in the nation for overall fire deaths. In order to reduce these numbers, a long-term commitment to fire and life safety education is critical. The partnership between EdVenture and the SC Division of Fire and Life Safety has allowed year-round fire prevention and awareness education programs that have reached more than 1.6 million individuals since 2003.

“EdVenture’s Dalmatian Station is one of the leading public fire prevention exhibits in the United States and we are pleased that FEMA has recognized the value of investing in our efforts to make the lives of South Carolinians safer,” said Catherine Wilson Horne, president and CEO of EdVenture Children’s Museum.

“This is a great example of a public/non-profit partnership that is making a difference by jointly educating thousands of people each year on how to be fire safe,” State Fire Marshal Shane Ray said. “In addition to enhancing Dalmatian Station, this grant will allow us to provide appropriate smoke alarms to the hearing impaired, which means we have the opportunity to impact a population that might otherwise be overlooked in fire prevention circles.”

Construction and renovation of these exhibits are slated to occur in 2013.

### **About EdVenture**

The mission of EdVenture is to inspire children to experience the joy of learning. EdVenture is dedicated to lifelong learning through its 92,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor interactive exhibit space and in its educational outreach programs and after school programs. The museum has welcomed visitors from all 50 states and 18 foreign countries, creating shared experiences and memories for families learning together. For more information about EdVenture, visit [www.edventure.org](http://www.edventure.org) or call (803) 779-3100.

### **About FEMA**

FEMA’s mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. For more information about FEMA, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

###