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**KIDS MEET KIDS FROM THE PAST IN
*CENTURIES OF CHILDHOOD: AN AMERICAN STORY***

DOYLESTOWN, PA – (September 5, 2017) – The Mercer Museum will present an exhibition for young children that lets them explore American history through the eyes of historical children with diverse cultural backgrounds in *Centuries of Childhood: An American Story*. The interactive exhibit, created by The Children’s Museum of Cleveland, will open at the Mercer on **Saturday, September 16** and remain on view until **Sunday, December 31**.

In *Centuries of Childhood*, children, ages 2-8 will connect their own experiences to the lives of the five historical children featured in the exhibit. Each historical character has its own distinct environment based on the time period and location in which they lived. By creating immersive environments with replicas of artifacts, home settings and traditional dress, children and families will feel like they are stepping into another time and place. The historical characters featured in the exhibit include:

- ❖ *Onatah*, a 7 year old Iroquois girl, who recounts life in the Great Lakes Region in the 1700’s.
- ❖ *Gregory*, at 10, is a Colonial apprentice. He shares his story of working and living away from home.
- ❖ *Clara*, a pioneer girl heads west with her family in 1840.
- ❖ *Jacob* is a Jewish boy living in Cleveland in the late 1800’s. He immigrated to America.
- ❖ *Michael* is a mid-20th century African American child moving from the Deep South to Chicago.

As children navigate the different historical settings in *Centuries of Childhood*, they can participate in hands-on activities like preparing food in a Native American long house, setting the table for Shabbat, paddling a canoe, writing a letter just like a colonial apprentice, constructing a log cabin home, riding a horse and carriage, exploring an immigrant ship, riding a train, and hopping on a covered wagon.

The Mercer Museum will also be hosting *Centuries of Childhood*-related programming that features a free Afterschool Program Series for children in grades K-4 on selected dates that includes stories, songs and visits to the *Centuries of Childhood* exhibit. Other scheduled exhibit programs are “Sunday Story Sessions,” with children’s librarian Darcy Fair, and “A Child’s Story Program,” that looks at the experiences of a child immigrating to America. Additional information including dates and times for these programs can be found at mercermuseum.org.

Centuries of Childhood is included with museum admission. Mercer Museum admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$8 for youth (ages 6-17). The exhibit is locally sponsored by Visit Bucks County, Marv and Dee Ann Woodall, Brian and Louise McLeod and Tom Thomas.

Centuries of Childhood was created by the Children’s Museum of Cleveland, in Cleveland, Ohio.

About the Mercer Museum

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County’s premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum’s collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world’s most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The Mercer Museum is located at Pine Street & Scout Way in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210 or visit www.mercermuseum.org.

About the Children’s Museum of Cleveland

Offering a variety of hands-on, family-oriented exhibits and programming, The Children’s Museum of Cleveland is ‘the’ Northeast Ohio destination and resource for all young children, parents and caregivers to engage in fun, innovative, interactive play that accelerates the child’s

creativity, development and education. The Children's Museum is located at 10730 Euclid Avenue in University Circle. For more information about The Children's Museum of Cleveland visit www.ClevelandChildrensMuseum.org.

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