



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media inquiries: Paul Nonnenmacher -- (860) 757-7771 or pnonnenmacher@crra.org

Wilton Boy, 6, Gives Birthday Money to Garbage Museum, Hoping to Keep it Open for Others to Enjoy

Stratford Museum That Teaches about Recycling and Sustainability May Close This Year

When Cameron Case of Wilton celebrated his sixth birthday on April 2, he didn't want anything for himself. Instead, he wanted others to be able to enjoy something he enjoys. So he donated his birthday money – \$310 – to the [Garbage Museum in Stratford](#).

Cameron has taken two field trips to the Garbage Museum – first while he attended Helen Gander Friends Nursery School, then as a kindergartener at Ina E. Driscoll School. Both times he enjoyed seeing Trash-o-saurus, the Garbage Museum's one-ton dinosaur made entirely of trash, the mounds of bottles, cans, paper and cardboard in the adjacent recycling processing center and, especially, "seeing all the machines."



Cameron Case

When he and his mother, Tammy Hwang, received an e-mail explaining that the Garbage Museum might be closing this year, Cameron decided to do something about it.

"I like the Garbage Museum and I don't want it to close," he said. So he collected his money and he and his mom sent it to the Garbage Museum.

Earlier this year, the Garbage Museum began an intensive fund-raising drive in an effort to stay open beyond June 30. The Garbage Museum had been funded by the sale of recyclables delivered to the recycling center. But the contracts for selling those materials expire June 30, and as part of the worldwide recession commodities prices have collapsed, so new contracts to sell

recyclables will not provide any funding for the Garbage Museum and its educational programs.

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Reading that news, said Tammy Hwang, “was kind of disappointing because there aren’t a lot of places geared toward teaching children about recycling and sustainability.”

Since its opening in 1993, more than 300,000 people have participated in the Garbage Museum’s educational programs. In 2002, the Garbage Museum and its sister facility, the Trash Museum in Hartford, 2002, earned the National Recycling Coalition’s prestigious Beth Brown Boettner Award for Outstanding Public Education for the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, which operates both Museums. Their programs teach people to protect their environment by recycling and thinking before throwing something in the trash.



CRRA has requested and received from the IRS a ruling that contributions to the Garbage Museum are tax-deductible. Contributions can be sent to CRRA Garbage Museum, 1410 Honeyspot Road Extension, Stratford, CT, 06615. Contributions can also be made on-line at http://www.crra.org/pages/edu_donate.htm .

Facebook users can become a “fan” of the Garbage Museum by visiting the Garbage Museum Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Garbage-Museum/84731121082> .

While taking care of the Earth is important to everyone, Cameron Case believed that giving others the opportunity to enjoy a place he enjoys was a better birthday present than something from a store. “I have too many toys already,” he said, “and I don’t want any more.”

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA’s new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA’s four solid waste projects serve 110 Connecticut cities and towns. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through the [Trash Museum](#) in Hartford and [Garbage Museum](#) in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>. Computer users can also discuss CRRA at its blog, <http://crra-blog.blogspot.com>.

Editors: A 300-dpi .jpg of the photograph is available from Paul Nonnenmacher via e-mail at pnonnenmacher@crra.org or telephone at (860) 757-7771.