



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RSVP requested by November 14, 2019



BALTIMORE CITY CHILDREN ENJOY THE HOLIDAY MAGIC OF POLAR EXPRESS

Baltimore, MD (November 12, 2019) – The B&O Railroad Museum in partnership with Maryland 529 is delighted to announce that Baltimore City children and their families will be immersed into the magical and beloved Christmas story, *THE POLAR EXPRESS* by Chris Van Allsburg, this holiday season.

Through this partnership, 525 Baltimore City children, who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend, will be presented with their very own pajamas, Polar Express book, and welcomed aboard **THE POLAR EXPRESS** Train Ride on November 15th through December 1st. Community and non-profit partners participating include James McHenry Elementary School, Paul's Place, Baltimore Outreach Society, Boys and Girls Club of Baltimore City, University of Maryland Medical Services Social Workers, and Baltimore City Recreation and Parks.

On board *THE POLAR EXPRESS* train ride, families will watch characters from this award-winning book come to life! The conductor will punch their golden tickets, chefs will dance and serve them hot chocolate and cookies, and Santa will arrive giving everyone their first gift of Christmas – a silver sleigh bell.

“We are so thankful to Maryland 529 and our community partners for making it possible to provide the amazing Polar Express experience to these deserving Baltimore youth and their families,” said Kris Hoellen, Executive Director of the B&O Railroad Museum. “Watching their faces light up when they meet Santa on the train and travel to the North Pole makes our holiday season!”

“We are so excited to be able to share this magical holiday experience with children and families that might not otherwise be able to afford it,” said Michelle Winner, director of marketing for Maryland 529. “Helping families experience the Polar Express is just one element of our partnership with the B&O Railroad Museum. We understand that the cost of college these days seems intimidating, but saving for college doesn’t have to be. Through our partnership with the museum, we want to reach families with young children so they know that they can open a Maryland College Investment Plan account with as little as \$25. And, for grandparents, aunts, and uncles, a contribution to a college savings account makes a great holiday gift.”

Please note that the B&O Railroad Museum is closed to the public during THE POLAR EXPRESS, November 15-17, 23-24, 28-29 and December 1.

*To obtain a **Media Pass for November 16 at 8:45 am**, please **RSVP by November 14** to:*

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The B&O Railroad Museum™, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. For further information on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.borail.org.

Please carefully read the Enrollment Kit which describes the investment objectives, risks, expenses, and other important information that you should consider before you invest in the Maryland 529 Plans. The Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer Prepaid College Trust and Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan enrollment kit is available at www.Maryland529.com or by calling 888.4MD.GRAD. Also, if you or your beneficiary live outside of Maryland, you should compare Maryland 529 to any college savings program offered by your home state or your beneficiary’s home state, which may offer state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state’s 529 plan.

Maryland 529, Administrator and Issuer.

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