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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The Living Planet Aquarium Celebrates 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** *Let's Party Like a Sea Star!*

**Sandy, UT (May 31, 2012)** --- Saturday, June 2, The Living Planet Aquarium will celebrate 8 years of providing many landlocked Utahans, particularly children, a unique and exclusive educational experience unlike any other.

The Living Planet Aquarium officially opened a preview exhibit to the public in 2004 at The Gateway with 18 exhibits covering 10,000 square feet of space. In June of 2006, The Aquarium relocated to a 43,000 square foot facility in Sandy, and now features 67 exhibits, over 1,500 animals and 300 species such as sharks, rays, seahorses, sea jellies, eels, starfish, amphibians, trout and many other saltwater and freshwater species. Since June 2004 the Aquarium has had over 2 million visitors. The two outreach education programs have reached over 454,000 Utah students since the Rainforest Van program began in 1999 and the Utah Waters Van program began in 2002. "The Living Planet has made amazing progress in the past several years," says Director of PR and Marketing, Angie Hyde, "and much of that can be attributed to the vision of our CEO, Brent Andersen, a very talented staff & volunteers, our donors, community leaders and the generosity of our citizens. Nearly everything at the aquarium—from the first trout tank built in 2004 to the River Otter exhibit which opened in January—has been built with donated money," Hyde says. "Utah should be very proud of the Aquarium it has created."

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The Living Planet Aquarium showcases ecosystems from around the world; from endangered species in Utah, to the creatures of the ocean, to the rainforests of South America, which together form one global ecosystem; the living planet. An understanding of these ecosystems and how they contribute to the quality of our lives is an essential tool for making educated decisions that help minimize our environmental impact and maintain a healthy balance on Earth for all living creatures.

Saturday, June 2, from 10:00am until 6:00pm the Aquarium education team will provide a treasure hunt throughout the aquarium and enhanced animal encounters at 11:30am and 3:30pm featuring up to 6 live animals! 98 cent hot dogs will be served all day at Calypso's Café and there will be a chance to enter to win your very own birthday party in the Sunken Ship! Free birthday cake will be served at 2:00pm while supplies last.

#### About The Living Planet Aquarium

The Living Planet Aquarium inspires people to explore, discover and learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. Admission is \$9 per adult and \$7 per child, ages 3-17. Each ticket purchased helps support the Aquarium's vision to foster stewardship for the environment and life on Earth. Advance tickets may be purchased online at [www.thelivingplanet.com](http://www.thelivingplanet.com) or by phone at 1-801-355-fish(3474). The Aquarium, located at 725 E 10600 S in Sandy, Utah, is a non-profit organization. Open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Aquarium is accessible to people with disabilities. Members enjoy unlimited visits and other benefits. Call 801-355-fish(3474) to join. For more information, visit [www.thelivingplanet.com](http://www.thelivingplanet.com).

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