

Founded in 1963, one of the oldest in the country; a NYS & Federal historic building, adopted by NASA & Office of Science. A 501 (c)(3) not for profit, chartered by the State of NY, members Assoc. Children's Museums (D. C.), MANY (Museum Assoc. NY), MV Chamber Commerce, OC Conv/Visitors Bureau, rotaryclubny1.com hdqtrrs. *Creating an Enjoyable Educational Environment for Kids from 1-101, boldly going where no museum has gone before with our 4 floors of interactive exhibits*

Children's Museum
311 Main Street
Utica, NY 13501
www.museum4kids.net



The Children's Museum
Holiday Gala/Festival of Trees & Lights
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CELEBRATE THE SEASON LUAU STYLE IN A CULTURAL WINTER WONDERLAND

Dear Children's Museum Multi-Cultural Friends: We've got exciting news to share! We're once again kicking off the holiday season with our *Holiday Gala* and *Festival of Trees & Lights* with an eco-savvy *Luau Theme*!

New This Year: table trees going green, a Mother/Son Dance, a Father/Daughter Tea, and items from all area cultures! Located in the City of Utica, with the numerous cultural and religious groups in our midst, we want to make sure we've included **decorative items from our Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Russian neighbors**, friends & students. Enter the Children's Museum the 3rd week of November and be enveloped in a winter wonderland! As the primary fundraiser for The Children's Museum, the museum never shines so bright.



Our Gala/Festival Preview Party will take place **Friday, November 20th, 2009** at the Museum, 311 Main Street, Utica. Guests, Sponsors, and Designers will enjoy an evening of cocktails & scrumptious hors d'ouvres set against the backdrop of the festive Holiday Tree decor. They will also enjoy an exclusive preview of the Festival and be among the first visitors to purchase the original holiday, cultural and religious items including trees, wreaths, centerpieces, mantelpieces, and gift baskets! The evening will also feature live entertainment and terrific raffles. Festival attendees can not only admire the one-of-a-kind creations, but also purchase them as gifts or for their own home or place of business.

The evening begins with a VIP Reception (invitation only) 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the museum; Cocktail Hour & Wandering Hors D'oeuvre 6:30-9:30pm; Dessert, Coffee & Announcement of Raffle & Auction Winners 9:30-10:30pm, all in a holiday wonderland. Donation \$45 per person or \$80 couple pre-paid by Nov. 1st). (10% member discount). \$60 per person at the door. Tickets are available from board members, in the museum, or on our website's secure shopping cart, and can be mailed or kept at the door for the night of the event. Festival Sponsor Categories run from \$300 to \$5,000 and include Preview Party tickets.

Then **Saturday, November 21st, 2009**, the Festival will be Open to the Public from 10:00am-3:00pm. Reduced General Admission of \$5.00 for children 2 to 17; \$6.00 for seniors; \$7.00 for adults (members & children under 2 free). Visitors can view the Wonderland of Trees and Holiday Items, and bid on any that may be left over from the Gala the night before and take part in our multi-cultural celebration. Any unsold items will be available for viewing through **Friday, November 27th's** Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Dance & **Saturday, November 28th's** Holiday on Main Street (which celebrates all cultures in our region), up to December 31st! Museum families and visitors will enjoy the extravaganza of fairyland forests complimented by holiday crafts and activities for kids of all ages & all cultures, and a special line-up of entertainment for the whole family!

Enclosed is the information regarding the categories for donations, showing what you will receive. (other forms are listed on our website). **Please take a moment now to fill out the enclosed Form designating your choice** and return it to us by November 1st. Donation categories also include complimentary Preview Party & Family tickets. If you have any questions, please call or email us.

This benefit supports the museum's Future Vision exhibits and programs for the community we serve. Working together we can continue to help improve the quality of life for our children and all the families in Central NY as we continue to make the Children's Museum one of the best in the nation! We hope you'll join us!

Sincerely, **Co-Chairs: John Nogas; Brad Zacek & Board Chair Mike Pilawa; Committee: Dr. Joanne Palumbo-Mozloom, John Stephenson, Matt Chmielewski, Ed Waszkiewicz, France Armstrong, Sabina Bajic w/ Marlene Brown**

/enc. Please also display our enclosed flyer to help us spread the word of our Holiday Extravaganza Events!

Board of Directors: Michael Pilawa, John Stephenson, Matt Chmielewski, John Nogas, Dr. Joanne Palumbo-Mozloom, Ed Waszkiewicz, Brad Zacek, Franca Armstrong, Sabina Bajic, and CPA Vin Gilroy Jr.