



The Children's Museum - a Catalyst for Creativity

The Museum is at 311 Main Street in downtown Utica, NY

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Vignettes written by members of the Board of Directors

<http://www.museum4kids.net>

A Doorway to Science: In September of 2010 I made a visit to the Children's Museum to ask Ms. Brown if she would like the Engineering students from Mohawk Valley Community College to do science activities on the second Saturday of the month. Her arms were wide open and thus the "Second Saturday Science" program began. At the time, I was concerned with what types of activities we would do and I quickly learned that no matter what science activity we did, the children that visited the museum were just as open armed about science as Ms. Brown was. The program has been a big hit. In the world we live in the future will be full of jobs related to science. It is very important to start to encourage very young students to discover the wonders of science. We will need more people to work in STEM fields than ever before. The Children's Museum is certainly a magical place to encourage interest in science. Every time I am in the Museum, I learn something new about one of the exhibits. The Museum is full of not only Science, but also local history and technology. Marlene is always searching for new activities and exhibits. Some of the programs and exhibits are actually designed and presented by some of the Board members. The Museum is of interest to both young and old. There is never a dull moment when you are in the Museum and you always leave saying, I have to get back again to explore some more. As a Science educator, it is a laboratory full of excitement for local and visiting children and adults. The gift of learning something new while having a lot of fun doing it, is truly the hallmark of the Children's Museum. If you or your children have not been in to visit, you are missing one of Utica's best kept hands on education centers.- **Celia Domser, Professor Emeritus, MVCC**

A Plus for Local History: I'm intrigued with the interactive educational perspective of the Museum. In addition it provides a valuable reminder to our community and its many visitors about our extensive local history. Recently I was pleased to have family members from North Carolina visit the Museum with their young children. Not only did they enjoy the four floors of exhibits, but they truly appreciated the historic significance and craftsmanship of this venerable building. The uniqueness of the museum educates a child hands on as they see and get to touch what they learn in text books, making this experience more educational. **Jim LaPaglia, VP Morgan Stanley Wealth Management**

Hope for the Future: It's all about the Kids. We know the Children's Museum is a quality of life Institution and a premier educational resource, but what it all boils down to is that the Children's Museum provides "Hope" –hope for a better future for our community's children (and all children everywhere), offering them a repertoire of exciting experiences that plant the seeds for future success in education, citizenship, and professional life. When "kids" find that learning about their world is fun, their imaginations become their spring board into increased confidence, self-esteem, and respect for others. This is where their budding interests in Math, Science, and History become their passions that lead to a fulfilling life. – **Mary Cardinale, UC Professor/DAR Chapter Regent**

Making Learning Fun: The Children's Museum is an institution in the Mohawk Valley and CNY that deserves our support. An historic building in an historic area, our Children's Museum is something that some metropolitan areas much larger than ours do not have. It's a safe place where parents can bring their kids to learn while playing and interacting with literally hundreds of exhibits. It's a place where we hope to tap into young peoples' sense of wonder, and instill the belief that learning is actually fun. A place that is ever growing due to the tireless efforts of Marlene Brown, and the many volunteers who invest their time and energy into making sure visitors have a great experience. With the proposed plans for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Center, and the new Planetarium, the Museum is also an economic engine for the area it stands in, which is regenerating into a vibrant hub of activity in historic Baggs Square East. The Children's Museum is also a tourist attraction, which sometimes is easily forgotten. Just a two minute drive from the Thruway exit, it's one of the easiest places for a family to visit. I am very proud to serve and represent this Museum, and hope residents of our area will continue to support it as well. - **Dan Olivadoti, HR/Export Compliance Specialist, Special Metals Inc.**