



Visit us on the WEB at sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com

April 2011 Newsletter

Sandcastles Volunteers honored for Community Service

From a large field of worthy individuals and organizations, the Ludington/Scottville Chamber of Commerce chose the Sandcastles Volunteers as the recipients of the 2010 Community Service Award. The Sandcastles Board is delighted that our 125+ volunteers have been recognized not only for their many hours of hard work but also for their commitment to the community. Over the past few months, volunteers have torn down, built up, filled dumpsters, cleaned, painted, cooked, helped us raise money, and much more. Some contributions are evident in the museum - like renovated exhibits, opened up spaces, recovered furniture, and brightly painted walls. Others are behind the scenes — like packing and moving boxes, hauling wood to the dumpsters, cleaning and repairing costumes, and serving on committees. Soon our summer and fall volunteers will again be making families feel welcome and keeping the museum in top condition every day it is open. All of these wonderful people continue to make Sandcastles a fantastic destination for children and their families!

Mark Todd, who oversees the renovation, nominated the volunteers.



Lunch for the volunteer work crew—cooked & brought in by other volunteers



Wishing Well

Founding board member Darlene Ponko and her family have donated a Vortex Wishing Well in memory of Darlene's husband, Jerry Ponko. The exhibit was purchased with some of the funds donated in Jerry's memory. Jerry was an avid supporter of Sandcastles and extremely proud of Darlene's commitment to and work for Sandcastles.

Grand Opening Plans

Thanks to great determination, countless volunteer hours, and many monetary and in-kind donations, the permanent Sandcastles Children's Museum will open on Saturday, May 14, 2011!



An adults only Sneak Preview will be held from 5—7 p.m. on Thursday, May 12. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m.

Drawings by Roger Martin



Scottville Optimist Club Fundraiser to Benefit Sandcastles

The Scottville Optimist Club has chosen Sandcastles as beneficiary of its
Wild West Night Dinner Dance & "200" Raffle

Saturday, May 7, 2011

6pm-12pm at the Optimist Hall in Scottville

Tickets are \$80 (for 2 people)

Dinner, Drinks, and Dance included

Your ticket automatically puts you in the drawing for five \$1,000 checks and twenty-five \$80 checks.

Only 200 tickets will be sold. Call Darlene at 843-3323 ASAP to purchase yours!



Summer Volunteer Sign Up

Volunteer Coordinator Darlene Ponko is currently scheduling volunteers to work during museum hours this summer. Due to a larger space and more exhibits, we have made some changes. In addition to volunteers, there will be two paid employees working at all times. There will be three shifts per day instead of two (shorter shifts!). The early shift volunteer will help open the museum, and the last shift volunteer will help close. We still have openings throughout the week, but we especially need people for Saturdays, the most difficult days to fill. We also need help in the evening on one or more Friday Night Live dates (July 15, 22, 19 & August 5).

If you prefer to work behind the scenes, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for maintaining exhibits, helping with museum upkeep and repairs, and serving on committees (e.g., publicity, grants, fundraising).

New volunteers are always welcome! If you want to join our volunteer team, contact Darlene Ponko at 843-3323 or email dponko@charter.net.

Grants for the SMART Table™

Thanks to grants from the Community Foundation of Mason County (\$3,000) Great Lakes Energy (\$1,500), and Walmart (\$1,000), Sandcastles will soon install its first interactive electronic exhibit, a SMART Table.™ It is a multi-touch multi-user table (like a very large touch screen) that will encourage

children to collaborate and problem-solve as they work and play.

We can customize or create activities to complement the other exhibits. We also plan to add activities for



science topics at various levels of understanding.



Other Exhibits

After hundreds of hours of taking apart, packing, and moving exhibits, the board and volunteers are installing them in the new museum this month. We hope our visitors will be as excited about the exhibits as we are! Exhibits are located on the two levels of the main floor, and they are grouped thematically as space permits. Some of our exhibits have been updated and improved (e.g., lights in the Badger PlayShip and a pizza shop in the restaurant area). Some "old" favorites, the Vet Center, Michigan Treehouse, and Sailboat, are back! We also have a reading nook, a space for the marble run, and a new stage with some fantastic sound effects. We can't wait to show off the new Sandcastles!

Capital Campaign Update

Sandcastles has extended our capital campaign through December 2011. Although many community members have donated generously, we still need to raise approximately \$158,000 to meet our \$300,000 goal for purchase and renovation of the building. We have raised \$142,000 to date and have expended \$51,000 on renovations.

Please show your support for Sandcastles by donating to our Capital Campaign Fund within the Community Foundation of Mason County (CFMC). Checks may be written to the CFMC and sent to Sandcastles at PO Box 595, Ludington, MI 49431. You may also go on line (mason-foundation.org) to make a credit card donation directly to the Sandcastles Capital Campaign Fund. A donation of any size will help us achieve our fundraising goal: one thousand \$10 donations or 500 \$20 donations equal \$10,000.

A permanent donor board, which identifies levels of giving, will recognize those who give \$100 or more. Also, donations of \$25 by or on behalf of children will be featured on our Pavers for the Future Board. Donations of \$50,000 or more will qualify for a naming opportunity at the museum. Call Kristin at 231-690-6735 for more information.



The Children's Parade taking the first items from the old museum to the new on December 18

Valentine Celebration

A Valentine Dinner Dance, "Falling in Love with Sandcastles," was held on February 12. We celebrated Valentine's Day and progress on the new building and raised funds for our capital campaign. Great food (Cartier Mansion dinner and Ruth Anderson desserts), music (Adam Knudsen), and photographs (Sue and Steve Brown) were enjoyed by the 133 people who attended. The event added \$9,344 to our capital campaign. A volunteer committee planned and decorated for the event, and other volunteers helped on the night of the party.



Family Affair

On March 19, Sandcastles participated in the Family Affair for the fifth year. Over 200 children stopped by to make a craft and play in and around our castle.



Parties and Other Events

We are renovating the basement area into a room for parties and other events. For the first time, you can hold your event at Sandcastles during the hours the museum is open. Call Marcia Olmstead at 843-4363 to schedule your event.

Birthday Parties scheduled during open museum hours: \$80 non-member/\$70 member for use of the museum & party room for 2 hours for up to 12 children. \$15 added for each additional hour reserved; \$4 for each additional child. Adult chaperones are free.

Birthday Parties scheduled when museum is closed: \$125 non-members/\$110 member for use of the museum & party room for 2 hours for up to 12 children. \$50/each additional hour ; \$4/each additional child. Adult chaperones are free.

For more information and to see rates for other events, see our website: www.sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com

Munchkin Mondays and Thrilling Thursdays

Programs for MM and TT will begin at 10:30.

Munchkin Mondays

- May 16 Stories & Songs with Pat Spaniola
May 23 Fingerpaints
May 30 Bunnies
June 6 Songs & Stories with Miss Sue Ann
June 13 Music & Movement (Carleen Shinn)
June 20 Science Fun (MLO Math/Science Center)
June 27 Artwork with Mrs. McWilliams
July 4 No program; museum is closed.
July 11 Bears, Bears, Bears (Patty Gottwald)
July 18 Music with Dianne Baker
July 25 Make a Hat
August 1 Puppets
August 8 Kindermusik—2 sessions
up to 18 months; 18 months +
August 15 Painting & Printmaking (Carrie Jeruzal)
August 22 Building Blocks
August 29 Homemade Play Dough

Thrilling Thursdays

- June 9 Science Fun-MLO Math/Science Center
June 16 Create a Memory Page (Scrapbook Nook)
June 23 Home Depot Build It
June 30 How Does That Work? (Frank Longmore)
July 7 Benjammin and Analisa, Educ. Musicians
July 14 Candy Construction
July 21 Black Ash Basketry (Kelly Church)
July 28 Sheepshank Sam, Old-time Michigan
Lumberjack and Teller of Tall Tales
August 4 Exploring Science
August 11 "Luuanappi" Stories, Poems, & Songs
August 18 Art with Mrs. Kanine
August 25 Crafting with FloraCraft

2011 Hours

May 14 through September 3

9:30 a.m. —5:00 p.m.

Monday—Saturday

September 9 through

December 17

10:00 a.m.—3:00 pm.

Friday and Saturday

Admission

\$4/ person

Babies under 1 year are free

Annual Family Membership \$75

(same as last year)

Wish List

Please keep us in mind if you upgrade to a new camera. We need a good camera (Canon G Series or similar) that will capture the quick movements of children at play indoors.

Realistic stuffed cats, dogs, and other pet animals for our Vet Center

Laser color printer

Sandcastles Board Members

Kristin Korendyke, President

Michal LaCombe, Vice President

Darlene Ponko, Secretary

Buffy Nagle, Treasurer

Pat Carney

Marsha Barter

Mary Todd

Mary Ann Ferguson

