



celebrating **HANDS-ON!**
the foundation for a lifetime of learning

A Letter from Our Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends,

The Flint Children's Museum (FCM) is celebrating a year of historical gains thanks to generous supporters like you. From a single hands-on exhibit developed by Genesee County educator Mary T. Newman in 1979, today the FCM offers more than 40 hands-on educational exhibits and served more than 42,000 children and families in fiscal year 2013 (FY13).

The FCM has earned its reputation as a unique community resource where children, regardless of socioeconomic status, come to explore, play, and learn. We are committed to developing and nurturing the full potential of every child, and especially to making exploratory learning accessible to the youngest and most at-risk youth.

Thanks to our sponsors, the FCM was able to offer free access days so that every child could enjoy an engaging, educational, and above all FUN visit to the Museum! Our sponsors also supported educational activities that help children build foundational skills to succeed in school. And, thanks to our Discovery Zone exhibit sponsors, there was always something new to experience in our changing exhibit gallery where the FCM team develops and fabricates exhibits on-site!

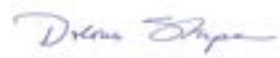
Our growing base of supporters helped us achieve a staggering 30% increase in gifts and contributions in FY13 that will allow us to continue to offer unique hands-on learning experiences to all children. It was also a great year for our members where the FCM proudly saw close to 1,000 additional families return to the Museum all year long to enjoy our exhibits and programs. And finally, the FCM earned national recognition by becoming the 3rd certified outdoor classroom in the State of Michigan, recognizing our outdoor learning area "Sproutsides" as a dynamic, nature-based play environment.

We are very gratified by what the FCM has accomplished and the direction we've taken in the past year. We look forward to 2014 as a year of growth and continued service. We thank you for your continuing commitment and partnership, and for giving us the opportunity to bring long-lasting hands-on learning experiences to the community.

Sincerely,



Sue Nederlander
Executive Director



Dolores Sharpe
Board President



Free Access Days

One of the most important parts of our mission is to bring fun and educational hands-on activities to all children, regardless of background or financial means. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to explore, play, and learn.

That's why we are so grateful to our sponsors whose financial support allows us to open our doors free of charge to all visitors.

A perfect example is our ongoing partnership with Kohl's and Hurley Children's Hospital, who have co-sponsored Free Access Days at the FCM. In October 2013, nearly 1,500 visitors came to explore the FCM free of charge in one day! It's that kind of overwhelming response that encourages us to always search for ways to open our doors to serve as many children and families as possible.



Sproutsides

Every year, visitors look forward to the opening of Sproutsides, our outdoor learning area. Since opening in 2009, Sproutsides has been one of our most popular features. We are proud of the unique range of nature-based activities children can experience in an otherwise urban environment. From our child-curated garden to exciting outdoor science demonstrations, children of all backgrounds come to Sproutsides to explore, play, and learn!

We are proud to announce that in FY13, Sproutsides was certified as a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. The Nature Explore certification recognizes the FCM as a dynamic, nature-based learning space, and shows our commitment to connecting children with nature and imaginative outdoor play.

We're excited to become one of only three certified outdoor classrooms in the State of Michigan and look forward to offering even more innovative learning experiences as Sproutsides continues to "grow!"

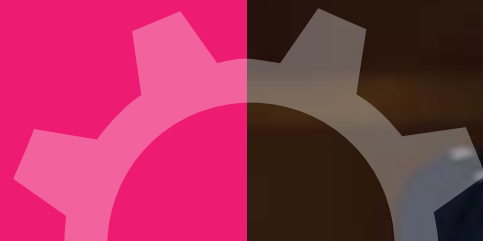


Discovery Zone

Every visitor to the FCM enjoys a hands-on play experience, and every return visitor is eager to explore something new. Discovery Zone is where we make this happen. Every 3-4 months, the FCM team transforms the Discovery Zone exhibit gallery into a new learning adventure designed to reinforce school curriculum through hands-on learning activities.

In FY13, we transported visitors back in time to a prehistoric "DinoWorld"; journeyed through a science space adventure "Out of This World"; and experienced the universe of children's imaginations in "Fairy Tales." Thanks to Bob Evans Farms, the FCM team fabricated a "Down On the Farm" exhibit experience where visitors explored nutrition, biology, and the world of agriculture.

The Discovery Zone is an excellent opportunity for community and corporate sponsors to support early childhood education at the FCM. The FCM is looking forward to another year of creative hands-on learning in the Discovery Zone, and the opportunity to continue to offer our visitors new discoveries.



Are You Smarter Than a Grade Schooler?



If you went head-to-head (literally) with a group of elementary school students in a contest of knowledge and wits, who would come out on top? Are you sure?

That's the question we asked some of Flint's most prominent community leaders – including Flint Mayor Dayne Walling; President of Mott Community College Dr. Dick Shaink; Community Foundation President Kathi Horton; Dr. Jonathon Wenzel, chemical engineer at Kettering University; and Craig Coney, President of Career Alliance – in our Fall fundraising event, Are You Smarter Than A Grade Schooler?

In late September, this group of adults gathered on the campus of Kettering University to square off in a friendly academic competition against fifth-grade students from Flint's Cummings Elementary School, St. Paul Lutheran School, and Grand Blanc's Reid Elementary School, with all proceeds generously going to support the FCM's mission.

While this was an evening of fun and educational entertainment, it was also a show of support for the FCM and the importance of hands-on learning.

"The Flint Children's Museum, it's a wonderful place for your family, they do a lot for our kids in this community and they're right next door to Kettering University, so a great partnership came together for this event."

- Flint Mayor Dayne Walling



Community Partners & Volunteers

The FCM receives tremendous support to bring fun, educational experiences to children. We are proud to include an expansive group of community partners in our mission.

Some of our partners include academic institutions like the Flint Community Schools, Kettering University, Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan-Flint. These institutions help ensure that educational content at the Museum is first-rate and get kids excited about learning in school.

Other community partners like the Crim Fitness Foundation and McKay's Farms help us reach more children in the community and enhance our outdoor learning programs in physical fitness and the environment.

From teachers, to parents, to business owners, and community leaders, our community partners help make the FCM a truly remarkable resource for young children.

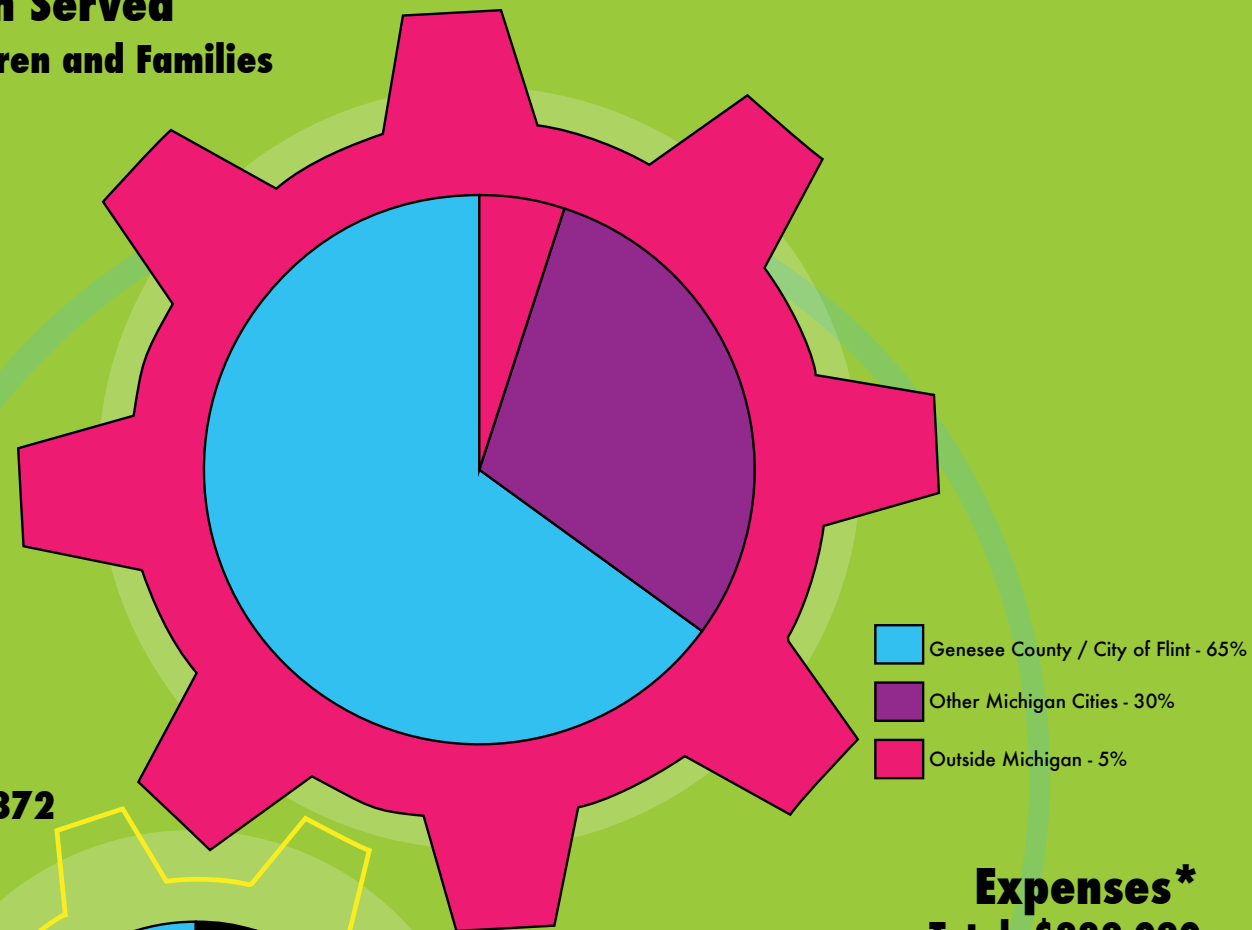


"We truly are grateful and hope parents will visit your fun, developmentally appropriate entertaining exhibits...Your staff is always helpful, cooperative and friendly and your organization is a treasured resource in our community."

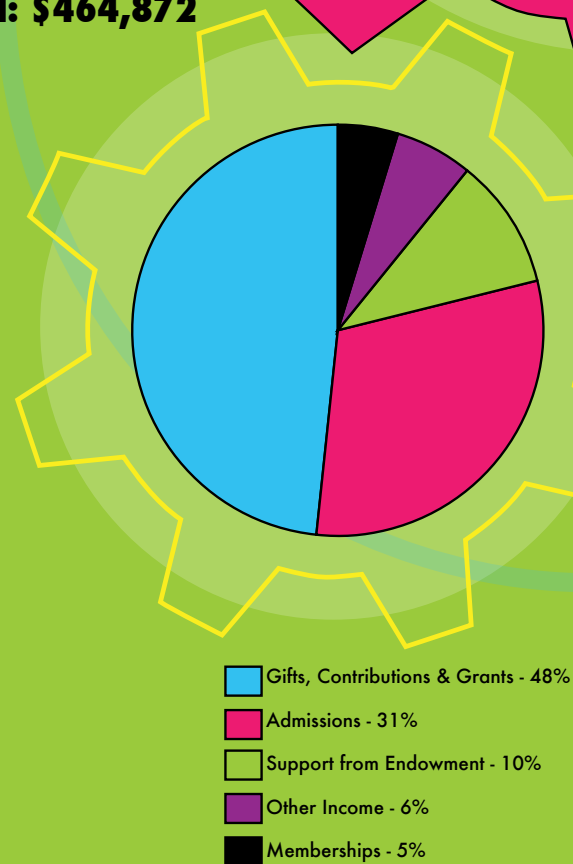
- Elizabeth Deibel, Flint Community Schools

Facts and Figures

Population Served 42,187 Children and Families



Income* Total: \$464,872

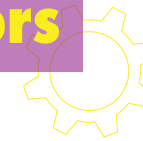


Expenses* Total: \$332,090



*Excludes In-Kind Contributions

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