315,000 VISITS

46,700 SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR SERIOUS PLAY

7,289 CURRENT MEMBER FAMILIES

2 ACRES OUTDOOR SPACE

17 INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS
Thank You for Serious Play

Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago is important because we:

• Reach children during the critical early formative years when patterns for lifelong learning are set
• Prepare children for school and equip parents to help their children flourish
• Strive to ensure children are creative, imaginative, and inspired to be the innovative thinkers necessary for our future

The Museum is unique because:

• We are the only Chicago-area children’s museum designed exclusively for ages birth to eight
• We strive for families to visit the Museum repeatedly and to be an essential part of our community
• Our facility design is mission-driven and universally accessible to all children, regardless of limitations

As a supporter of Kohl Children’s Museum, you already know this. These pages are a testament to your commitment to serious play. All that we have accomplished as highlighted here would not have been possible without you and your contributions. For that we are seriously and exceedingly grateful.

While this is our annual report to you, we strive for continuous two-way communication with you, the community we have served for over 30 years. Accordingly, we welcome your feedback regarding how Kohl Children’s Museum can continue to grow.

Thank you for your seriousness about play— for sparking a lifelong love of learning through the power of play in the children we serve.

Sheridan Turner, President & CEO
sturner@kcmgc.org

Jack Ball, Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees
jball@kcmgc.org
“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”

FRED ROGERS, creator and host of the educational preschool television series Mister Rogers' Neighborhood
INVESTING EARLY FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

The importance of quality early learning in children’s development, especially during the first eight years of life, is certain. Patterns for lifelong learning are set and fundamental building blocks of knowledge, such as language, basic math, and social-emotional skills, are developed.

For children born into poverty, inequalities in learning experiences begin at an early age. By age three, disadvantaged children have heard approximately 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. High-quality, early childhood experiences foster the development of cognitive and social-emotional abilities, particularly for disadvantaged youth.

Kohl Children’s Museum harnesses the power of play through innovative exhibits and programs based on best practices. We are a safe, magical place where children and adults of all backgrounds and abilities learn, create, and discover.

CHILDREN WHO VISIT MUSEUMS HAVE HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT IN READING, MATH, AND SCIENCE
“Each of us must come to care about everyone else’s children. We must recognize that the welfare of our children and grandchildren is intimately linked to the welfare of all other people’s children.”

LILIAN KATZ, PHD, Professor Emerita of early childhood education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
**EXTENDING THE MUSEUM’S REACH AND IMPACT**

*Early Childhood Connections (ECC)*, the flagship outreach program of Kohl Children’s Museum, extends a unique brand of playful learning beyond the Museum’s walls. The program connects children and educators in underserved areas with proven educational methods.

ECC provides educators with free, professional training using the same principles behind the Museum’s belief in play-based, hands-on learning. Participating teachers and caregivers develop the critical thinking skills of their students by having them conduct an in-depth study of a particular topic. The program also features free family activities at the Museum designed to engage parents in their children’s education.

ECC is a recognized model of success. The program is a Chicago Public Schools Preferred Professional Provider and is highlighted in the work of Project Approach expert Judy Harris Helm, Ed. D. Assessments continually show ECC-trained early childhood educators produce statistically significant, positive changes in the use of developmentally appropriate pedagogical methods and strategies.

---

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INCREASES COGNITIVE AND ACHIEVEMENT SCORES BY 0.35 STANDARD DEVIATIONS, ON AVERAGE**

---

80% of a child’s brain growth is completed by age 3.
EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS IS AN INVESTMENT FOR OUR FUTURE.

GAINS FOUND FOR EVERY OBSERVATIONAL AND ATTITUINAL ITEM FOR BOTH TEACHERS AND CHILDREncare PROVIDERS (A MAJORITY HIGHLY STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT)

1,411 EDUCATORS

17 HOURS ECC TRAINING PER EDUCATOR, PER YEAR

FREE TRAINING, FIELD TRIPS, AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

70 MILES OF OUTREACH IMPACT

SINCE 2001

ECC IMPACT

131,776 CHILDREN

327 BRIGHTER FUTURE FAMILY MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS DISTRIBUTED
Serving Diverse Neighborhoods

The impact of ECC extends well beyond Kohl Children’s Museum in Glenview. This map shows the breadth of communities where ECC educators have taught since the launch of the program in 2001. ECC has enriched the lives of underserved children from 90 unique zip codes, from Zion in the north to the far south suburb of Steger.
CARRIE HUGHES served on the Kohl Children’s Museum Women’s Board for seven years, including as President of the board. Her volunteer leadership continues as a new member of the Board of Trustees. Carrie reflected on the value of giving her time, talents, and financial support to the Museum.

“I went to school for communications, and I got my masters in broadcast journalism. I ended up working for a while for a bank in New York where I did their community relations and events. I also took the minutes for the bank’s Board of Trustees, so now I feel like I’ve come full circle! I used to sit in taking notes, and now I have a seat at the table. It’s really exciting for me.

That’s what I love about the Museum and volunteer opportunities. You can really grow and try different things. You can experience different things and do things that surprise yourself. And it all goes toward wonderful outreach programs.

When I was President [of the Women’s Board], board members who volunteered [at Museum outreach programs] would share their experiences with the rest of the board at meetings. Sometimes they were so touched by their experiences, it brought tears to their eyes. It’s nice for people to truly understand where the money is going.”

EXPANDING EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVES WOULD PROVIDE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY OF ROUGHLY $8.60 FOR EVERY $1 SPENT, about half of which would derive from increased earnings for children when they grow up.
“The development of the brain, science shows us, is absolutely related to the language environment of the young child.”

DANA SUSKIND, MD, Thirty Million Words: Building a Child’s Brain
Providing Special Play for Special Needs

Everyone at Play opens our Museum doors for the free, exclusive use of families with special needs. These families enjoy exhibits and programs in an atmosphere that is less crowded, more relaxed, and more conducive to each child’s individual needs. The program also provides unique opportunities for children with special needs and their typically developing siblings to play in a shared environment of experimentation and discovery.

Everyone at Play IMPACT
(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

710 children with special needs served

Free admission to the Museum and programming specifically designed for families with special needs

6 events held

4-6 therapy dogs participating per event

40 community partners
**Chris Hixon** shared the important role Kohl Children’s Museum played in the development of his son, Trevor.

“Trevor was born in 2009. At the 18-month mark we noticed that he was not hitting some of the basic milestones that toddlers should be reaching. He received a global developmental delay diagnosis, which was a broad way of saying, ‘He’s not quite developing typically. He’s strong in some areas but not in others.’

That’s what started our journey and ultimately led us to a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. We were living in [Chicago] at that time... [and] we were seeking opportunities to work on Trevor’s development, a lot of which revolves around social and peer interaction.

We discovered that there was a children’s museum up north in Glenview. We immediately fell in love with Kohl Children’s Museum. It caters to kids across all spectrums, from typically developing kids through kids who have any form of special needs.

Shortly after that first visit we received an email inviting us to come up early on a Sunday [for Everyone at Play]. [This program] had all the benefits of the Museum but in a little more controlled environment. It wasn’t as crowded or as hectic, so it provided a really amazing environment to interact without too many distractions.

The Museum became an oasis for us. It was a really fun place for Trevor but it also helped tremendously with his development.”

Chris also discussed his involvement with the Museum as a donor and member of Kohl Children’s Museum’s Development Board: “A friend invited me to the charity golf event [Chip in for Children] to support Kohl Children’s Museum. I said, ‘Absolutely. I’ll be there!’ It was a really special, fun event centered around supporting a phenomenal cause. It was great to be able to give back to a place that had given so much to me and my family.

It makes me feel good that I’m able to pay it forward.”
EXPLORING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH

From constructing an electrical circuit to creating a vibrating scribble machine, Tinkering Tuesday encourages children to do what they do best – let their curiosity take over! In this uber hands-on program, children explore the intersecting worlds of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). Young STEAM explorers build machines and create processes, then figure out what happens when they change those machines and processes. Tinkering Tuesday occurs throughout Kohl Children’s Museum on our specially designed STEAM Cart.

Tinkering Tuesday IMPACT
(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

472 children served
18 sessions held
ROD SMITH, Vice President of Human Resources at Anixter, talked about Anixter’s sponsorship of Tinkering Tuesday and Rod’s relationship with Kohl Children’s Museum, including serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for three years.

“Technology is behind everything [Anixter] sell[s]. We have a lot of technical products so the STEAM program the Museum was launching made a lot of sense for us. Plus, we’re close; we’re neighbors. Being in human resources, I have an interest in education. The fit just made a lot of sense for us as a company.”

Rod described how Anixter worked with Museum staff to create the one-of-a-kind Kohl Children’s Museum Tinkering Tuesday program and corresponding STEAM Cart: “Our technology people and some engineers went over [to the Museum]. It was very collaborative. It was a lot of fun having both the [Museum] team and the Anixter team set up the ideas and take the ideas to fruition with the STEAM Cart.”
HONORING OUR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES

*Play Attention* reaches out to military and veteran families, assisting them with readjustment and reconnection. Kohl Children’s Museum provides therapeutic hospitality through exclusive, family-centered events that offer calm, collaborative play where children and their military or veteran caregivers enjoy the Museum free of charge alongside other, similar families.

**Play Attention IMPACT**

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

**OVER** 600 **MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED**

**FREE** ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM AND PROGRAMMING SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES

**4 EVENTS HELD**

**16 COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
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THE PLACE WHERE AWESOME LIVES
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15,768 children, families, and educators served through outreach programs
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100% of exhibits aligned with Illinois Early Learning and Common Core Standards
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JUNE 2017

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29
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FISCAL YEAR – JUNE 30, 2017

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT
Contributions & Grants Operations $1,110,960
Special Events (Net) $453,573
Admissions $858,691
Membership Income $940,861
Field Trips and Educational Program $167,220
Facility Rental Income $229,437
Exhibit Rental Income $68,925
Other $34,917
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT $3,864,583

EXPENSES
Program Services $3,845,262
Management & General $357,238
Fundraising $371,384
TOTAL EXPENSES $4,573,884

INCREASE/DECREASE NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER CHANGES ($709,301)

OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
Play It Forward Campaign Contributions $573,835
Play It Forward Campaign Expenses ($228,820)
Interest Earnings on Investments $4,995
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments ($38,728)
TOTAL $388,738

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ($320,563)

Admission and membership fees cover LESS THAN 50% of the Museum’s annual operating expenses.

FINANCING SERIOUS PLAY

Thank you! We could not achieve our goals without the generous contributions of donors like you and the leadership of our boards. In partnership with you, the Museum looks forward to continued growth in public support and program revenue in the coming years.

William Sanders
Vice President of Business Affairs & CFO
bsanders@kcmgc.org
GIVING THE GIFT OF SERIOUS PLAY

This annual report demonstrates the serious impact of your generosity. Thank you for providing playful, inspiring experiences for our children.

We’re dreaming bigger than ever at Kohl Children’s Museum. You can help more children experience the power of play with a gift to the Museum’s Learning to Grow Fund.

Please contact me for more information about how you can give the gift of serious play and help Kohl Children’s Museum continue to grow.

Michael Herman,
Vice President of Development
mherman@kcmgc.org
Waukegan Pop Up Experience

Kohl Children’s Museum hosted a pop up museum at Urban Edge, a 5,000 sq. ft. storefront gallery located in downtown Waukegan, IL. This pilot program, Kohl Children’s Museum in Waukegan, was free of charge to school and childcare groups during weekday hours and to families during evening and weekend hours. The Pop Up Museum included hands-on STEAM activities for children ages three to eight years old and their families.

Among the experiences, large wind tubes and a Bernoulli blower encouraged children to explore airflow, drag, symmetry, and gravity. Imagination Playground blocks and magnetic building blocks provided a wealth of collaborative learning opportunities.

Fun “Learn At Home” activities also encouraged families to continue the hands-on learning after they left the pop up museum experience.

Make a donation to Kohl Children’s Museum to support new pop up museums in under-resourced communities.
VISION
We will be an essential leader in providing playful experiences that inspire every child.

MISSION
We are a place that provides experiences and memories to build a foundation for a lifetime of learning.

WWW.KCMGC.ORG

SOCIALIZE WITH US
#PLAYKCM

See for yourself why we’re The Place Where Awesome Lives!

Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago • 2100 Patriot Blvd, Glenview • (847) 832-6600 • kcmgc.org