



# KOHL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM™

SURPRISINGLY SERIOUS ABOUT PLAY.



**312,000**  
VISITS



**46,700**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE  
FOR SERIOUS PLAY

**6,600**  
CURRENT  
MEMBER  
FAMILIES



**2 ACRES**  
OUTDOOR SPACE



**17** INTERACTIVE  
EXHIBITS



**KOHL CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM**  
30 YEARS & GROWING

2100 Patriot Blvd  
Glenview, IL 60026  
[www.kcmgc.org](http://www.kcmgc.org)

LOCATED IN GLENVIEW AND SERVING CHICAGOLAND FOR **30** YEARS.



# DEAR FRIENDS

For 30 years, **Kohl Children's Museum** has been using play to inspire a love of learning in young children. Our organization, the Museum and its programs are built upon best practices and deep knowledge of how children learn. It is through hands-on, engaging, play-based opportunities that children can develop critical thinking skills and become autonomous learners and leaders.

We are proud to bring these learning opportunities to underserved communities by making the Museum accessible to children of all socioeconomic backgrounds and ability levels. Equally important, every year thousands of children, parents, and educators are affected by our **Early Childhood Connections** program, which trains teachers to embrace and employ the project-based approach in their day care and classroom settings. This includes involving children in projects that expand their vocabulary, foster their curiosity, and nurture their creative thinking skills. The Museum's work makes a vital impact in these children's lives, and it is only with your help that we can help provide a brighter, more playful future for them.

Every day, children are experiencing the power of play at **Kohl Children's Museum**. This play mixes physical, emotional, imaginative, cognitive, and social experiences to awaken a love of learning in young children that never goes away.

It is thanks to your contribution that the Museum can continue to be responsive to the community and create solutions wherever we see a need. Your support will help us continue to harness the power of play to jump-start the next generation.



**Sheridan Turner** President & CEO



**Paul Sutenbach** Chair, Board of Trustees





Communicative skills develop when there's something meaningful for children to communicate about—when they are taking an active role.

LILIAN KATZ

## INVESTING EARLY FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

The importance of quality early childhood learning opportunities in children's development, especially during the first 8 years, 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, inequities in learning experiences begin at an early age. For example, by age 3, disadvantaged children have heard approximately 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. High quality early childhood systems foster the development of cognitive and social-emotional abilities, especially for disadvantaged children.

**It is simply indisputable that quality early learning experiences are essential.**


Every competency important to school success is enhanced by play, and **Kohl Children's Museum** exceptionally harnesses the power of play. We understand that young children are intrinsically curious and innately imaginative, and that exploring, discovering, and creating are as natural to them as breathing. Imagination and curiosity are the foundation of learning that will lead to a population of critical thinkers, negotiators, and problem solvers.

For over 30 years, the Museum has offered innovative and highly respected programs in a safe, magical place for children and adults, where they can learn, discover, create, interact, and thoroughly enjoy themselves. Our exhibits and outdoor exploration spaces use principles of universal design to be inclusive of children and adults with any level of physical, cognitive, and social-emotional ability.



80 PERCENT OF A CHILD'S BRAIN GROWTH IS COMPLETED BY AGE 3





Good teaching is not just following a child's lead but creating a zone of proximal development to help children grow.

DR. JIE-QI CHEN

## REACHING OUT AND CREATING CHANGE

**Kohl Children's Museum's** flagship outreach program, **Early Childhood Connections (ECC)**, successfully brings a unique brand of playful learning outside its walls. The program connects children and educators in underserved areas with proven educational methods.

**Early Childhood Connections** provides educators with free professional development training, using the same principles behind the Museum's belief in hands-on, engaging, play-based opportunities. Teachers and caregivers can offer their students a chance to develop essential thinking skills and become autonomous learners and thinkers. Additionally, **ECC** offers family activities designed to engage parents in their children's education.

The program is a recognized model of success. Assessments have continually shown that **ECC**-trained early childhood educators produce statistically significant positive changes in the use of developmentally appropriate methods and strategies. With the power of learning through play, **Kohl Children's Museum** inspires generations of children.



2001 – 2016

## ECC IMPACT



112,889  
CHILDREN

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS IS AN INVESTMENT FOR OUR FUTURE.

1,283  
TEACHERS



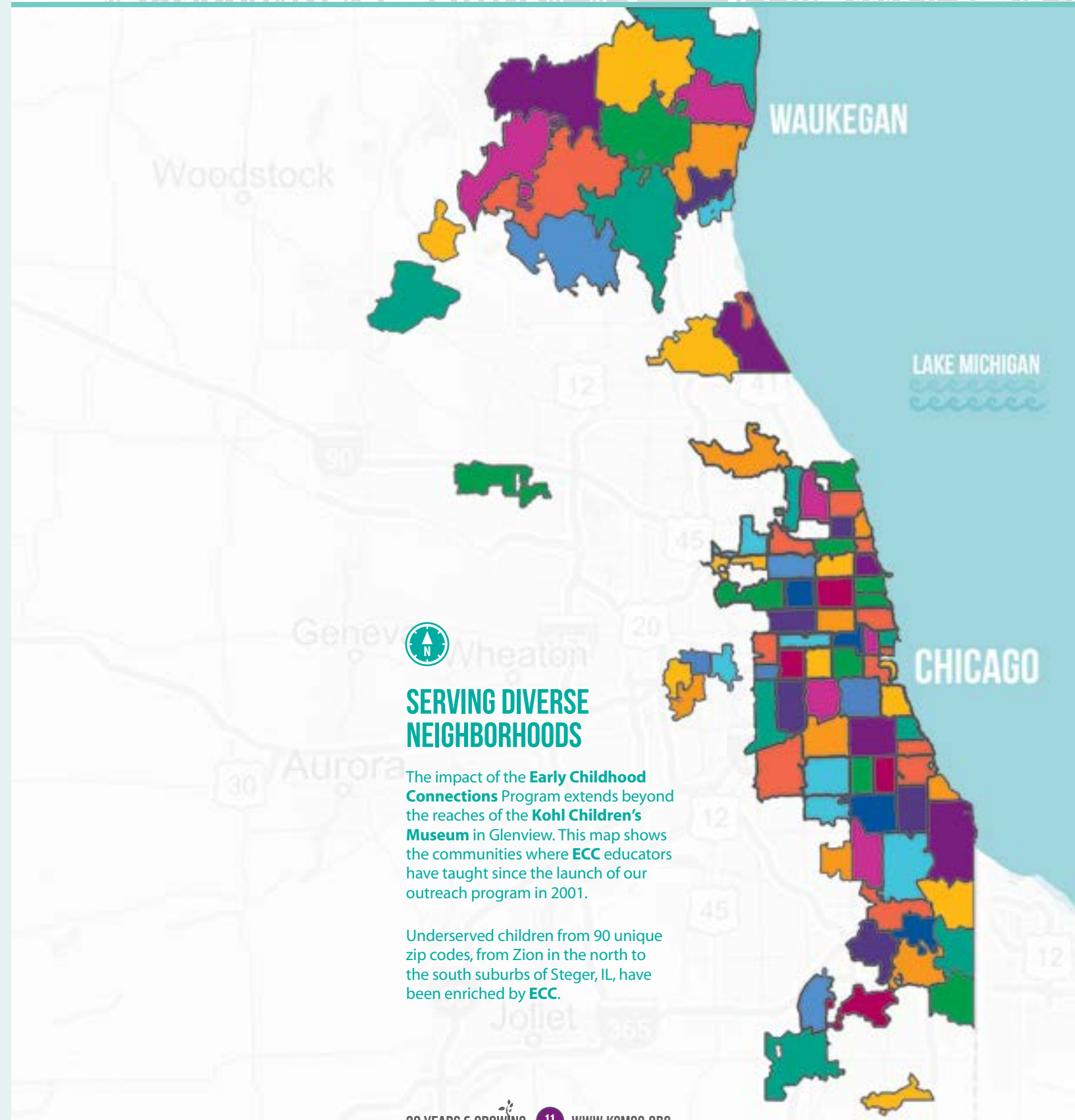
17  
HOURS  
ECC TRAINING  
PER TEACHER, PER YEAR



FREE  
FIELD TRIP GUESTS



70  
MILES  
OF OUTREACH  
IMPACT



### SERVING DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS

The impact of the **Early Childhood Connections** Program extends beyond the reaches of the **Kohl Children's Museum** in Glenview. This map shows the communities where **ECC** educators have taught since the launch of our outreach program in 2001.

Underserved children from 90 unique zip codes, from Zion in the north to the south suburbs of Steger, IL, have been enriched by **ECC**.





DeCarla

DECARLA

Miss D, as she’s known to her students, became one of **ECC**’s earliest graduates in 2003. Since bringing this learning to her daycare practice on Chicago’s South Side, she has become a champion for the power of the project-based learning approach she learned at **Kohl Children’s Museum**.

“ The **ECC** program gives teachers a new perspective on how to reach diverse learners. It provides so many great techniques that build character, self-esteem, and leadership in children.

Through the project-based learning approach, children have long-lasting results. Learning through observation and through things that interest them encourages those children to not be afraid to fail, to ask questions, and to understand that it’s better when we come together to brainstorm to figure things out.

Donors should give because we’re educating not just the children, but their parents and the community. We’re showing them that their children have such great potential— all we have to do is pay attention and listen. It’s all about letting them have the freedom to explore.

You gain a new respect for how much children can learn. ”

**10**   
**DOLLARS**  
**SAVINGS**  
IN FUTURE SOCIETAL SERVICES  
**PER DOLLAR**  
**INVESTED IN**  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
**DEVELOPMENT**



*Kyilah*




KYILAH

The **ECC** program not only touches the lives of the educators who attend the year-long training, but it also touches the lives of students who have had the opportunity to learn from one of these innovative educators. Students like Kyilah can recall how these experiences shaped their future love of learning.

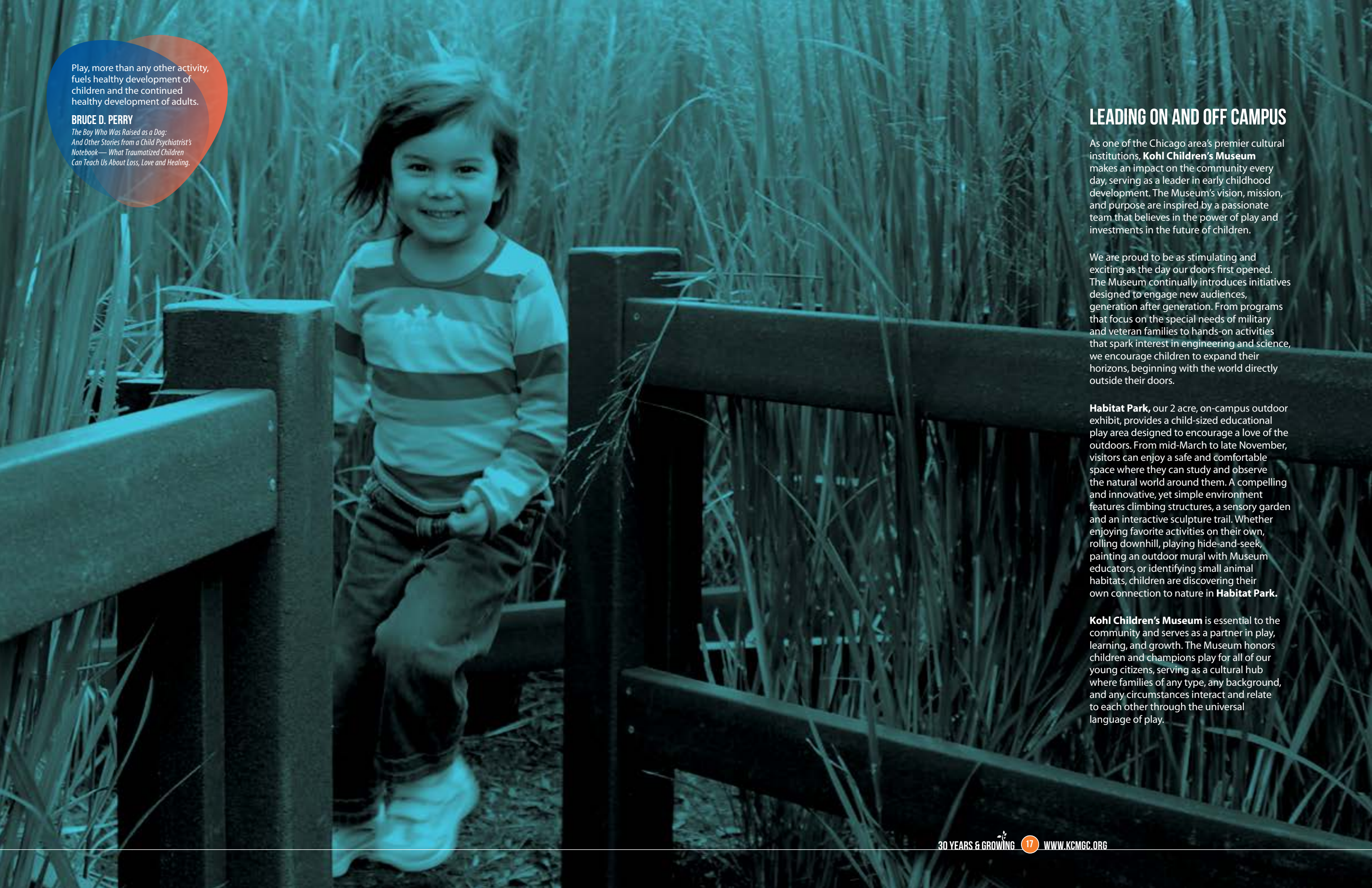
“ Miss D lived 4 blocks from our house in Hyde Park, and I started going to her daycare when I was just a year old.

My passion for animals and insects started with Miss D. We had a caterpillar and butterfly project, and Miss D gave awards for who could find the most caterpillars. Though we lived in the middle of the city, there were caterpillars everywhere. I put them in a plastic bag with apples and oranges to eat. In a couple of days they formed cocoons, then after another week or so they turned into butterflies, and we let them go. It was the best thing ever!

Now I study Marine Biology at UCLA. I want to be a marine animal veterinarian, especially for sharks. I’m fascinated with how little we still know about the ocean— at least 30% of it is still unexplored, and I want to be the one to explore it! I’m looking forward to taking classes where we will study the oceans of Australia and French Polynesia.”

**80**  **PERCENT**  
OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
**STUDENTS**  
**OUTPERFORM**  
**THEIR PEERS**





Play, more than any other activity,  
fuels healthy development of  
children and the continued  
healthy development of adults.

**BRUCE D. PERRY**

*The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog:  
And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's  
Notebook — What Traumatized Children  
Can Teach Us About Loss, Love and Healing.*

## LEADING ON AND OFF CAMPUS

As one of the Chicago area's premier cultural institutions, **Kohl Children's Museum** makes an impact on the community every day, serving as a leader in early childhood development. The Museum's vision, mission, and purpose are inspired by a passionate team that believes in the power of play and investments in the future of children.

We are proud to be as stimulating and exciting as the day our doors first opened. The Museum continually introduces initiatives designed to engage new audiences, generation after generation. From programs that focus on the special needs of military and veteran families to hands-on activities that spark interest in engineering and science, we encourage children to expand their horizons, beginning with the world directly outside their doors.

**Habitat Park**, our 2 acre, on-campus outdoor exhibit, provides a child-sized educational play area designed to encourage a love of the outdoors. From mid-March to late November, visitors can enjoy a safe and comfortable space where they can study and observe the natural world around them. A compelling and innovative, yet simple environment features climbing structures, a sensory garden and an interactive sculpture trail. Whether enjoying favorite activities on their own, rolling downhill, playing hide-and-seek, painting an outdoor mural with Museum educators, or identifying small animal habitats, children are discovering their own connection to nature in **Habitat Park**.

**Kohl Children's Museum** is essential to the community and serves as a partner in play, learning, and growth. The Museum honors children and champions play for all of our young citizens, serving as a cultural hub where families of any type, any background, and any circumstances interact and relate to each other through the universal language of play.



The development of the brain, science shows us, is absolutely related to the language environment of the young child.

**DANA SUSKIND**

*Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain*


# SMILE!

## EMBRACING SPECIAL NEEDS FOR SPECIAL PLAY

**Everyone at Play** opens the Museum doors 6 times every year for the exclusive use of families with special needs. These families can enjoy the exhibits and programs in an atmosphere that is less crowded, more relaxed, and more conducive to each child's individualized needs. Children and families with myriad daily challenges are delighted and inspired as their imaginations and curiosities are sparked. **Everyone at Play** events also provide unique opportunities for children with special needs and their typically developing siblings to play in a shared environment of experimentation and discovery. Every child should feel welcomed to learn.

The Museum receives truly heartfelt responses from those who know the power of an inclusive environment. Jill Uswajesdakul, mother of a child with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, noted that "each exhibit has activities for him, is perfect for our needs. Suddenly, right there was the experience I'd been hoping for. My son got to play alongside his peers, something he rarely if ever gets to do. I can't thank you enough. It is obvious that a great deal of planning, consideration, and consultation happened to make your facility possible."





An infant's interactions with the primary caregiver create his or her first relationship. Healthy attachments allow a child to live, to become a good friend, and to have a positive model for future relationships.

**DR. BRUCE D. PERRY**

*Six Core Strengths for Healthy Development*

## CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES

**Play Attention** is a new program that reaches out to military and veteran families and assists in the readjustment and reconnection process. The Museum provides therapeutic hospitality through exclusive, family-centered events that offer calm, collaborative play in a safe, accessible environment where children and their military or veteran caregivers are able to enjoy alongside other veterans' families.


Therapist Natalie Frame, from Thresholds, one of the Museum's partner organizations for **Play Attention**, notes, "There is no doubt in our minds that **Play Attention** is a means to healing the invisible wounds of war and the undetected wounds of separation.

**Play Attention** creates a place for the wholesome restoration of souls. Here's a way for us to feel that all is well once more."

## SUPPORTING PARENTS WITH NEWBORNS

**Baby and Me**, a program now entering its second successful year, creates a warm and affirming space for new parents to learn how to be a family. Free for all participants, the program creates a support group for parents with newborns to share their experiences and lifestyle changes. A nurse representative from our partners at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is on hand during each session to answer questions, offer expert advice, and facilitate discussions on early childhood development and parenting topics to help the group navigate and adjust to the powerful presence of a newborn in their homes.





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

## PARTNERING WITH THE WORLD

In 2016, the Museum truly began to demonstrate its global impact. Through a groundbreaking international partnership with **Play Africa**, the first children's museum in South Africa, we created a cultural exchange between the children of the greater Chicago area and the children of South Africa using art and play, two universal forms of media. **Art Across Oceans** was an international collaborative children's art project made possible through a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

In March, artists from the Museum visited **Play Africa** in Johannesburg to create monoprints and digitally animated children's artwork. In April, South African artists Khehla Chepape Makgato and Ayesha Price visited the Museum and worked with guests and children in a high-need school to create similar artwork. Art from both nations was ultimately interwoven, and a joint celebration was held in mid-May, with the groups of children connected via Skype. This project was an amazing artistic and cultural experience for the children in both countries.

**Art Across Oceans** gave us a tangible opportunity to share our belief in hands-on, interactive, experiential play. We hope this initiative will be the first in an ongoing relationship, as **Play Africa** develops and expands its reach and **Kohl Children's Museum** challenges itself to be a dynamic leader to inspire all children to learn.



Madeline

## MADY

Many donors experience the Museum for the first time through the enjoyment of their children or grandchildren. For Mady, proud grandmother of 4, who has been active with the Museum for 11 years as both a donor and as a former member of the Board of Trustees, this was no different.

“I’ve been visiting the **Kohl Children’s Museum** since my first granddaughter was young. She’s 18 now, and she used to have her birthday parties at the old museum location. She wanted me to take her there almost every day!

When the Museum campus moved to Glenview, I started bringing my other grandchildren there. The youngest, Bebe, is 5 now, and the Museum is so interactive that I love playing with her there. There are so many opportunities for playing and sharing.

It’s fun for me, too. You can tell a lot about children and their feelings from what they like to do and how they interact with other kids.

Places that are directed at young children positively affect the broader community and how the world turns out. **Kohl Children’s Museum** gives my grandchildren a chance to meet and play with kids from other communities and to see that we are all different, yet the same.

Just being at **Kohl Children’s Museum** with my grandchildren has made a big difference to me.”

**84**  **CENTS**  
OF EVERY DOLLAR GOES TO  
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FISCAL YEAR – JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions - Operations	\$1,500,692
Government Grants - Operations	\$2,570
Admissions	\$879,513
Special Events (Net)	\$587,518
Membership Income	\$871,558
Field Trips and Educational Program	\$178,117
Facility Rental Income	\$224,115
Exhibit Rental Income	\$57,250
Other	\$49,701

TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT \$4,351,034

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$3,889,391
Management & General	\$360,974
Fundraising	\$372,152

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,662,517

INCREASE/DECREASE NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER CHANGES (\$271,483)

OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Play It Forward Campaign Contributions	\$33,497
Play It Forward Campaign Expenses	(\$42,025)
Interest Earnings on Investments	\$7,583
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(\$10,451)

TOTAL (\$11,396)

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (\$282,879)

REVENUES

EARNED REVENUE

\$2,210,553

PUBLIC SUPPORT

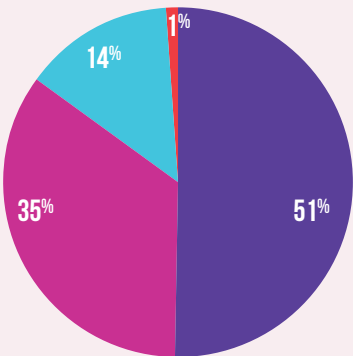
\$1,503,262

CAUSE-RELATED FUNDRAISING EVENTS

\$587,518

OTHER

\$49,701



FINANCING SERIOUS PLAY

Kohl Children’s Museum marks this past year as an extraordinary milestone in celebrating its 30th anniversary of inspiring children and families with the power of play, on and off the Museum campus.

We had strong financial results, driven by generous contributions of \$1,500,692, strong Museum admissions and membership income of \$879,513 and \$871,558, respectively, and another fantastic donor-supported year of special events, netting out \$587,518 in patronage. The Museum’s revenues and other support grew by 5%, propelled by a 28% increase in educational programs, a 41% increase in cause-related fundraising events, and a 3% increase in general contribution growth.

Favorable contribution and program growth has enabled the Museum to continuously focus on providing excellent programming to children from all parts of the greater Chicagoland area. For every dollar expended to carry out its mission, 84% was attributable to program delivery.

Thank you! We would not be able to achieve our goals without the support of generous donors and the leadership of the Board of Trustees. The Museum is looking forward to steady growth in both public support and program revenue in the coming years.

William Sanders

Vice President of Business Affairs & CFO, CPA

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS/ EDUCATION/ EXHIBITS

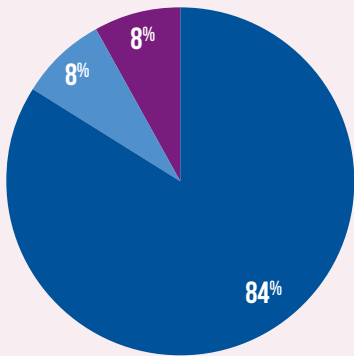
\$3,889,391

MANAGEMENT/ GENERAL

\$360,974

FUNDRAISING

\$372,152





# GIVING TRANSFORMS LIVES

We aim to provide children with opportunities that inspire creativity, innovation, and learning through play. As we complete our 30th year as a community resource, we are dreaming bigger than ever before. It is only with your support that we can continue to develop and implement programs that can reach farther, make a stronger impact, and leave a lasting legacy for our community.

By donating today, you will help set the stage for more children to experience the power of play. You can change our community for the better, right now, with your gift to the Museum's **Learning to Grow Fund**. We truly appreciate your support of the Museum's essential work that helps young children realize their potential.

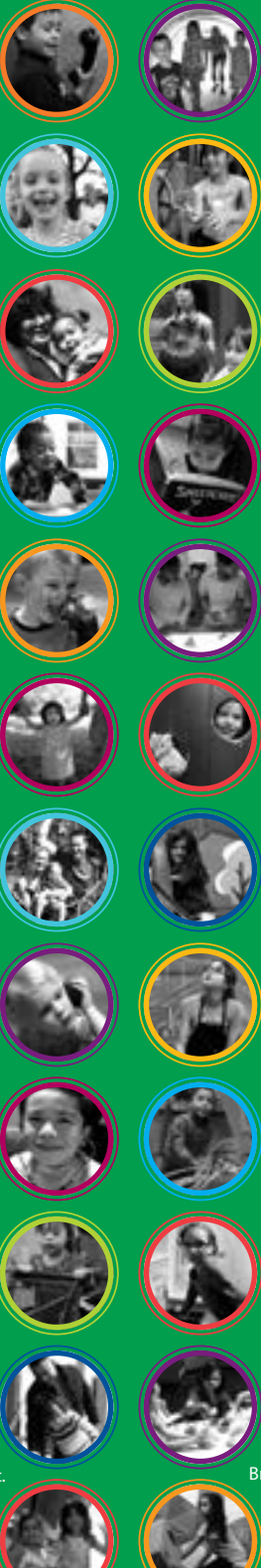
We can continue to use play to ignite a love of learning in young children. Please contact our development office at **(847) 832-6895** or **development@kcmgc.org** for more information about supporting **Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago**.

## SOCIALIZE WITH US



#PLAYKCM

## 30 YEARS & GROWING





# 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](http://WWW.KCMGC.ORG)

