



## Thank you!

As a valued member of Kohl Children's Museum's family of supporters, you have shaped a brighter future for our community, inspiring young minds and empowering our children. Your generosity is instrumental in creating a space where curiosity is nurtured, creativity is celebrated, and the joy of learning is ignited. And for that, we are forever grateful.

I am excited to share with you the 2023 Impact Report, which highlights just a few of the programs you made possible. Your support of Kohl Children's Museum enables teachers, parents, and caregivers to engage their children in activities supported by sound, data-driven, early childhood educational practices.

I assure you that the Museum uses its resources wisely, appreciating each contributed dollar. By donating to Kohl Children's Museum, you encourage children to splash in *Waterworks*, grocery shop in *Whole Foods Market*, and explore urban structures in *City on the Move*, all while inspiring curiosity, fueling imagination, and empowering children with knowledge.

**Thank you for making a difference in the lives of all children who walk through our doors. Together, we're building a brighter future.**

Heartfelt thanks,



Mike Delfini  
President & CEO  
Kohl Children's Museum



## Look What YOU Made Possible!

**15,738**

children and educators  
were engaged through  
Museum Field Trips

**4,936**

visitors participated in STEAM  
programming at the Kohl  
Children's Museum Pop-  
Up Museums and Mobile  
Learning Lab

**11,731**

Museum guests were  
welcomed at reduced prices  
through the Museums for All  
program

**282,205**

guests were greeted  
at the door to the  
Kohl Children's Museum

# Increasing Access to Quality Early Childhood Resources for Educators and Families

Last Spring, we excitedly relaunched our Pop-Up Museum, which originally debuted in Lake County in 2017. Our Pop-Up Museum gives children an opportunity to engage in hands-on, interactive learning through play within their own communities.

**Thanks to you, KCM hosted two Pop-Up Museums for families and young children in Waukegan in 2023.** Both of these Pop-Up Museums -- in Belvidere Mall and at the College of Lake County's Lakeshore campus -- greatly increased the number of STEAM experiences for children in local communities.



The Pop-Up included a bilingual reading nook, an imagination playground (large foam blue blocks that promote design, building and collaboration), a tech play lab (programmable robots and other foundational coding activities), and a full art studio (art techniques, exploration and self-expression).

Because of your support, we have continued to operate our Mobile Learning Lab (MLL) in coordination with the Pop-Up Museum, to reach as many families as possible. The MLL is a van packed with STEAM-based activities that expands the Museum's footprint in multiple Lake County communities, reaching children who otherwise, would not have access to our Museum campus in Glenview.

Every child deserves access to quality early childhood education programs. The Pop-Up Museum and Mobile Learning Lab are just two ways that Kohl Children's Museum is working to address educational inequalities and achievement gaps. These interactive outreach programs align with the Museum's larger vision to ensure that children in the Chicago area whose circumstances preclude in-person Museum visitation, still get to participate and learn.

## Everyone at Play

Kohl Children's Museum is committed to providing the highest quality early learning experiences for all young children and was specifically designed to be inclusive, regardless of a person's ability. Our facility was built using the principles of Universal Design so that families with special needs children can use the facility in the same way as families with typically developing children. It is a step beyond just making the facility accessible. As part of our commitment to all families, the Museum launched the *Everyone at Play* (EAP) events. EAP events are free and provide dedicated time in the Museum for children with disabilities and their families.

**In 2023, the Museum hosted eight EAP events and attracted 2,002 guests.** In conjunction with a community partner, our Programs team developed and implemented a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Board to use at EAP events. PECS Boards are primarily used by non-verbal children with Autism as a way of communicating. With the popularity of children and families using the PECS Board at EAP events, we have started using the Board during general operating hours as well.

If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with

disabilities and other special needs and would like to receive e-mail notifications and invitations to Everyone at Play events, contact our program coordinator, Cori Paulsrud at [cpaulsrud@kcmgc.org](mailto:cpaulsrud@kcmgc.org).



# Creating Learning Experiences That Spark Imagination and Curiosity

You made 2023 an exciting year for the children who visited the Museum, which included new events, programs and exhibits. **None of this would have been possible without you – so on behalf of our littlest guests, THANK YOU!**

Here are a few additions to the Kohl Children's Museum 2023 lineup:

## ***New Museum Exhibit***

In June, the *Cheers for Spheres* temporary exhibit debuted, which created excitement and new learning opportunities for young guests. Children explored the world of balls, circles, and spheres, and how they interact with the world around them. Bernoulli blowers enabled children to find out what shapes balance on columns of air, circular stomplights change colors, and an Air-Mazing station used air pressure to send balls shooting through see-through tubes.

## ***Expanded Programming***

Several new programs launched this year, including *Books and Bops*, *STEAM Stories*, and *Full STEAM Ahead*. Geared toward infants and toddlers, *Books and Bops* provided the perfect blend of physical movement and motor skills development, while introducing children to interactive stories. The *Full STEAM Ahead* and *STEAM Stories* programs were created in partnership with Glenview Public Library. *STEAM Stories* is a special monthly storytime during which young children explored STEAM concepts with interactive readings featuring songs, rhymes, and more, while hands-on STEAM activities were led by Kohl Children's Museum staff at the Glenview Public Library.

## ***Return of Play Attention***

Through the *Play Attention* program, military veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families were invited to explore and play in the exhibits free of charge while the Museum is closed to the general public. These events occur on specific Sunday afternoons throughout the year and provide a safe, non-threatening environment for veterans and active-duty military families to enjoy quality time with their young children.

During the event, Museum staff and volunteers are available for play support and guidance. Additional activities and resources specifically for military and veteran families are provided.

If you are a veteran or active military personnel and would like to receive e-mail notifications and invitations to *Play Attention* events, please contact our program coordinator, Molly Lippitt at [mlippitt@kcmgc.org](mailto:mlippitt@kcmgc.org).

## ***Launch of New Special Event***

New in 2023 was the first annual Superhero Celebration fundraiser, which featured Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Black Panther and more, along with real-life Superheroes like firefighters, police, teachers and doctors. The event raised critical funds to engage thousands of children with quality STEAM-based experiences at the Museum and in communities of need.





## Save the Date for these 2024 Special Events

*Sunday, April 14 & Sunday, April 21*  
**Spring Family Festival** at Kohl Children's  
Museum

*Sunday, May 5*  
**Touch a Truck Family Festival** hosted by the  
KCM Women's Board at the Northeastern Illinois  
Public Safety Training Academy

*Monday, June 3*  
**Chip In for Children Golf Outing** hosted by  
the KCM Development Board at the Glen View  
Club

*Friday, June 28*  
**Starry Night Soirée** hosted by the Board of  
Trustees at Kohl Children's Museum

Check out [kcmgc.org](https://kcmgc.org) for more information!

## Because of You!

Thank you for making 2023 an inspirational and educational year for the families in our community. You have positively impacted the lives of so many children, and I am grateful for your thoughtful generosity. If you are interested in seeing a program first-hand or would like to come to the Museum, I am happy to invite and join you for a visit.

My direct contact information is [mdelfni@kcmgc.org](mailto:mdelfni@kcmgc.org) or 847-832-6922.

**THANK YOU!**

Mike Delfni, President & CEO

If you would like to renew your support,  
please scan the QR code to make a  
donation online.



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