



### Thank you!

As a dedicated supporter of Kohl Children's Museum, I share with you the 2022 Impact Report, which highlights the programs your financial support made possible.

Thanks to your generosity, Kohl Children's Museum educators continue to provide hands-on STEAM programming to help young children in our community learn.

Thank you for making an important difference in the lives of children during their most critical learning years. You have instilled a deep love of learning that will never go away, and we are all grateful.

Heartfelt thanks,

Mike Delfini  
President & CEO  
Kohl Children's Museum



### Look What YOU Made Possible!

- Trained **51** teachers and childcare providers through *Early Childhood Connections*.
- On **86** days, KCM's Mobile Learning Lab visited underserved areas of Lake County.
- Gave **2,179** children with disabilities—and their families—free, exclusive KCM access during *Everyone at Play* events.
- Welcomed **8,768** guests at reduced prices through Museums for All.
- Engaged **13,214** Museum visitors in weekly Science Programming.
- Invited **229,648** guests through our doors in 2022.

## Sparking Curiosity in Communities of Need

The **Mobile Learning Lab (MLL)** gave a COVID-safe option for parents and caregivers to expose their young children to hands-on, STEAM-based learning. Targeted in specific Lake County communities, the MLL was critically important in providing sound early education activities to help children overcome some of the learning loss that occurred as a result of the pandemic.



In 2022, the MLL was stationed throughout Lake County in schools, libraries and park districts. **More than 2,000 children, caregivers and educators participated in MLL programming in 2022.**

At each location, the MLL team created an open, collaborative environment that was safe for risk-taking and encouraged learning through experimentation. Young learners participated in data-proven activities to build skills in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Importantly, Kohl Children's Museum educators also engaged with adult visitors with tips for fun activities to extend learning at home.

**Thanks to your generosity, we are excited to continue this critical work and bring sound early educational programming to young children in neighborhoods of need.**

## Inspiring Our Teachers

Since its inception, educators at Kohl Children's Museum have supported teachers by offering creative and engaging methods of enhancing traditional approaches to teaching. Through our year-long **Early Childhood Connections** program, early childhood teachers and childcare providers were trained in The Project Approach.

This nationally-recognized curriculum builds on children's natural curiosity and encourages creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, while educators reach core curriculum goals.

In addition to subsidizing teacher training, the Museum provided the supplies necessary for implementing classroom projects, and encouraged teachers to create family activities to promote hands-on learning at home.

**None of this would have been possible without you!**

We are thrilled that 75 educators are participating in Early Childhood Connections in the current academic year. With your continued support, Kohl Children's Museum will train approximately 225 teachers in The Project Approach in the next three years as part of our deep commitment to early childhood educators. **Exponentially, these teachers will impact the lives of more than 4,500 students for years to come.**



## Learning That Never Goes Away

In 2022, KCM's Programs Staff resumed early education activities that were on hold because of the pandemic. These Museum programs were designed to provide hands-on activities to spark curiosity and experimentation in young children. By alternating onsite offerings, each Museum visit was unique for families.

- *Garden Buddies* - Children got their hands dirty while learning about planting, cultivating and harvesting healthy edible plants in the Museum's *Habitat Park*.
- *Story Time* - Through creative and interactive storytelling, children were encouraged to use their imaginations to jump into pages of select books.
- *Science Sleuths* - Children became scientists as they studied evidence, made predictions, and tested their hypotheses with a Museum educator.

The Dover Tech Play Lab opened in the fall and excited children explored basic coding, robotics, engineering, design, and programming skills in a fun, developmentally appropriate way. Frequently, older siblings, parents, caregivers and teachers were so interested that they played along too.



## Museum Events

In 2022, many of the Museum's annual events were held for the first time since the start of the pandemic, along with two new events that brought the KCM community together again.

- Touch a Truck
- Chip In for Children
- Kohlights
- New Year's Eve Celebration
- Holiday Tea (*New*)
- Summer Family Festival (*New*)

We look forward to these events and more in 2023! Specific details will follow for each of these events, but please Save these Dates!



## Save the Date for these 2023 Special Events

- **Museum Afternoon for Donors**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2023**
- **Touch a Truck** hosted by the KCM Women's Board at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy on **Sunday, May 7, 2023**
- **Chip in for Children** Golf Outing, a project of the KCM Development Board, at the Glen View Club on **Monday, June 5, 2023**
- **The Bubbly Ball Gala** hosted by the Board of Trustees on **Friday, June 23, 2023** at the Museum
- **Kohlights** in Habitat Park at Kohl Children's Museum select dates **November 25 through December 28, 2023**



**YOU** made 2022 a year of learning through play. You have positively impacted the lives of so many children, and I am grateful for your thoughtful generosity. If you are interested in seeing any of these programs first-hand or would like to visit the Museum, I would be happy to host you for a visit.

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

### THANK YOU!

Mike Delfini, President & CEO