



Dear Friend,

In 2024, you helped spark curiosity, creativity, and joy in the lives of 283,806 Museum guests by donating to Kohl Children's Museum. Because of you, magical moments of discovery will shape young minds for years to come.

Last year brought countless transformative learning experiences beyond just statistics: a young child's face brightening with excitement while creating their first masterpiece to proudly display at home in our Art Studio; a preschooler discovering the value of collaboration while exploring the Build It Exhibit; a parent observing their child form new friendships and practice sharing in the Grocery Store Exhibit.

These moments tell the story of your impact in 2024. Every wide-eyed discovery, every burst of laughter, every moment of understanding that happens within our walls is made possible because of you.

We are grateful you are part of our journey. Your contribution directly supports the meaningful experiences of every child who walks through our doors.

Gratefully,

Mike Delfini
President & CEO
Kohl Children's Museum



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

2,506

Children and family members participated in programs like *Play Attention* for families of veterans and active-duty military, and *Everyone at Play* for families with children with disabilities.

283,806

Guests were greeted at the doors of Kohl Children's Museum.

17,747

children and educators explored our exhibits during Museum field trips.

1,478

children benefited from The Project Approach to Learning because their teachers enrolled in the renowned and longstanding *Early Childhood Connections* program.



Vroom vroom!



We are thrilled to recognize Heart Auto Care for their extraordinary commitment to children's education and family experiences. Their recent donation has been instrumental in our ongoing efforts to create inspiring, interactive learning environments for families in our community.

The team at Heart Auto Care understand the profound impact of hands-on learning. As Brian Moak, owner of Heart Auto Care shared, "We believe in empowering children through inspiring experiences and education. We love and support Kohl Children's Museum because they offer families a space where they can create meaningful experiences that encourage learning and imagination."

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The partnership between Heart Auto Care and Kohl Children's Museum goes beyond financial support – it's a genuine commitment to community enrichment. The team at Heart Auto Care recognizes the museum as "an invaluable asset to our community," understanding how critical interactive spaces are for making family connections during the early years of childhood development.

"We support Kohl Children's Museum because their efforts align with our core values of providing meaningful enrichment to families," Brian explained. "We believe in the importance of fostering creativity, learning, and connection, and Kohl Children's Museum plays a vital role in making these opportunities accessible to the community."

Thanks to partners like Heart Auto Care, we continue to create dynamic, educational experiences that inspire curiosity and learning for children and families.

Young@Art

Kohl Children's Museum hosted a Summer-long art series called Young@Art featuring special programming centered around the *Van Gogh for All* exhibit. The interactive exhibition, produced by the Dolores Kohl Education Foundation, featured 3D reproductions of Van Gogh's famous works including *Starry Night*, *The Yellow House*, and *Sunflowers*. Children engaged with hands-on elements like exploring recreations of Van Gogh's bedroom and studio, role-playing at the Café Terrace, and practicing artistic techniques by drawing self-portraits.

The summer program integrated STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) through both indoor and outdoor activities. Young@Art included a variety of art-focused activities such as *Tree Whispers*, a Resident Artist Program, a Staff Art Show, and nature-based outdoor art activities in Habitat Park.





All aboard!

The world's most beloved #1 blue engine rolled into Kohl Children's Museum loaded with fun and adventure in the Fall. The interactive *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* exhibit, created by Minnesota Children's Museum and based on the Nick Jr. series, focuses on STEM education for children ages 2-7.

Children were delighted as they found themselves surrounded by the Island of Sodor's iconic locations like Knapford Station and Sodor Steamworks. Familiar and favorite characters including Thomas, Percy, and Victor, provided encouragement to young visitors as they completed different challenges and developed new skills.

The experience incorporated foundational STEM practices that encouraged thinking mathematically, making comparisons, experimenting to solve problems using a variety of methods and tools, and reflecting on actions and results. Educational activities ranged from basic sorting and shape identification to more complex engineering challenges like building elevated train tracks.

KCM Access Afternoon

In the Fall, the KCM team hosted Museum Access Day for guests who cannot typically come to the Museum regularly. Guests included those who receive SNAP/EBT benefits or other federal assistance, and community partners from the Family Connections initiative. KCM partners also participated in the event including Rainbow Assisted Animal Therapy and the Illinois Extension Master Gardeners.

Did You Know?

▶ Kohl Children's Museum holds a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, the highest possible rating on their evaluation scale. So, when you donate to KCM, you can be assured that the Museum team uses its resources wisely, appreciates each contributed dollar, and is committed to accountability and transparency.



▶ Kohl Children's Museum is more than just a place for play; it is a powerhouse of learning, creativity, and growth that shapes young learners. The time between birth and age 3 is a period of especially rapid brain advancement. During these formative years, a child's brain is like a sponge, absorbing new information at a remarkable rate. The experiences and relationships formed during this period of rapid brain development build a foundation for future learning and success.



▶ It costs approximately \$5.5M annually to create the experiences that families with young children have at KCM. Only 60% of these expenses are covered by ticket sales, memberships and other earned revenue. Therefore, 40% must be raised in contributions from generous friends like you, to pay for all costs incurred to educate the children in our community.



Some of these costs include: materials for the art studio, supplies for the butterfly tent, outreach programs like the Pop-Up and Mobile Learning Lab, activities for families with children with disabilities, or even paying the air conditioning and heating bills.

Charitable gifts to Kohl Children's Museum enable teachers, parents, and caregivers to engage their children in activities supported by sound, data-driven, early childhood educational practices.



Save the Date
SUNDAY, JULY 6 AND 13
Summer Family Festival
 2:30 – 5 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025
Chip In for Children Golf
Outing, a project of the KCM
 Development board, at the
 Glen View Club



Because of You!

We know that young children learn most effectively through play, and we appreciate every donation that enables us to provide these experiences. By playing in the KCM exhibits, children learn to cooperate, share, count, learn their letters, build, test, experiment, draw, collect groceries in a cart, and mostly, have fun.

But we — the adults — know that at the same time, **they are learning, which is why this work matters.**

I am profoundly grateful for your support, which helps us develop and nurture the next generation of creative thinkers, problem solvers, and dreamers.

Thank You!

Mike Delfini, President and CEO
 mdelfini@kcmgc.org



Ways to renew your gift or contribute to Kohl Children's Museum:



- Scan the QR code to donate online
- Visit the Kohl website at kcmgc.org/donate
- Donate through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

- See if your company matches contributions or volunteer hours
- Make a gift on social media (Facebook, Instagram, and more)
- Stop by the Museum in Glenview and add a donation onto a ticket purchase

- Mail a check to:

Kohl Children's Museum
 2100 Patriot Blvd.
 Glenview, IL 60026

Thank you for considering Kohl Children's Museum in your philanthropic decision-making. We promise to use your generous donation wisely.