

Annual Report 2018



the
Kansas
Children's
DISCOVERY
Center

2018 by the Numbers

★ = new record or new program

1,140
KCDC Cares Admissions

★ **10,195**
field trip attendees

★ **7,470**
subsidized field trip attendees

3,199
volunteer hours from 98 volunteers

... **253**
Museums for All admissions

1,969 ...
infants under 12 months who visited for free

RECORD ATTENDANCE
88,423

... **2,827**
nonprofit organization membership admissions

2,068
Military Discount Admissions

...
★ **3,702**
Mobile Museum and Family STEAM Night participants

*Pictured: Highland Park
Central students on a
school-wide field trip*

Admission Access

Every child deserves rich and diverse museum experiences. The Kansas Children's Discovery Center is committed to ensuring accessibility for every family. We strive to remove financial barriers that prevent play at our children's museum. More than 10 percent of visits to the museum are free or discounted.

How does KCDC ensure access for everyone?



Museums for All



Social Service Memberships



Community Free Nights



Sliding Fee Scale Field Trips



Donated Passes



Military, Senior & Infant Discounts



Library Passes

“Opens up new thoughts, ideas...”

“Children benefit from being taken out of the school building to experience the unfamiliar, to have the opportunities to learn academics, and how to behave appropriately in different places. They had the opportunity to learn and practice not just academic skills but social skills. This type of outing and exposure opens up new thoughts, ideas about their future, and new pathways for kids. Many of our students live in a very small world, even within the city of Topeka. The majority of our students wouldn't have had this opportunity without the grant.” - Highland Park Central teachers



Pictured: Mobile Museum visit a local community center

Mobile Museum

The Kansas Children's Discovery Center ensures accessibility for every family, by bringing high-quality, hands on learning opportunities outside the museum walls and into the wider community.

Kansas Children's Discovery Center educators have curated Mobile Museum exhibits to provide educational play comparable to the museum experience. Children can explore building materials, robots, light lab, wind tube, plexi paint experience, real tool build workbench and a variety of dramatic play experiences, including a cafe, a lemonade stand and veterinary office. Exhibits are offered during Mobile Museum visits at local parks or community centers and school-based family STEAM nights.

Why Do Kids Need the Mobile Museum?

Play is essential to children's development, teaching them about their world and building connections in the brain's pathways. While playing, children's natural desire to explore is stimulated. They use scientific processes while playing, exploring, creating and investigating. A child who builds is engineering, a child who climbs is building muscles, a child who pretends is practicing interacting with others. Children need play.

"There were so many smiles..."

"This was one of the best family nights ever. I was so happy with the turn out. The staff really appreciated how kind and helpful your staff was. The activities were engaging and many parents made comments on how cool the stations were. It was great to see the interactions between parents and students plus interactions between students and staff. There were so many smiles and some students were cheering or celebrating success. Many students showed preference and problem solving skills when things did not quite work out the way they had planned."

- Family STEAM Night organizer



*Pictured: A grandmother
and her grandchildren
at Play Free*

Play Free



Play Free from the Kansas Children's Discovery Center is a play-based education and exploration program for children with an incarcerated mother (in some cases, grandmother). The program invites children to come to the museum for a day of free fun with their moms, encouraging educational play and family bonding to increase children's resilience.

Play Free supports children who need opportunities to play in a safe, caring environment. Through no fault of their own, these children have experienced the pain and confusion of separation from a caregiver. Play Free allows children to gather outside the prison walls, for a day of normalcy in a challenging time.

Why Do Kids Need Play Free?

Every child deserves museum experiences. Play is particularly important for children who have experienced trauma. Having an incarcerated family member or an absent caregiver have both been identified as adverse childhood experiences (ACE) that later increase children's risk for violence, alcohol or drug abuse and poor health (CDC-Kaiser, 2008). Programs to promote healthy bonding between children and their incarcerated caregivers make a difference in the lives of children, strengthening the attachment that makes children resilient.

"It meant the world to me."

"My daughter said: 'this is the best day ever!' It was wonderful to experience such a memory."

"If I stay out of trouble, I can look forward to this again."

"[Play Free meant] a day of fun to spend with my kids"

"It was a time for my children and I to reconnect."

"My favorite part of the day was being able to walk on the trail and just have one-on-one time to talk."

"It means a lot to me and my son and we definitely will not forget this day."



*Pictured: Rachel, age 6,
Medical Warrior*

Medical Warriors



Medical Warriors is a free program designed to allow medically fragile children or those battling life-limiting illnesses to come to the museum after-hours for a private play time, or get play experiences during inpatient hospital stays. Children get to play with their families, while avoiding the crowds that exist while the museum is open. Medical Warriors served 66 people at the museum and 24 children at local hospitals in 2018.

"The Kansas Children's Discovery Center has given Anna the chance to be a normal toddler and a place she can play and have fun. This program means the world to Anna and us."

*Pictured: Dominic and
his dad at Puzzle Pieces*

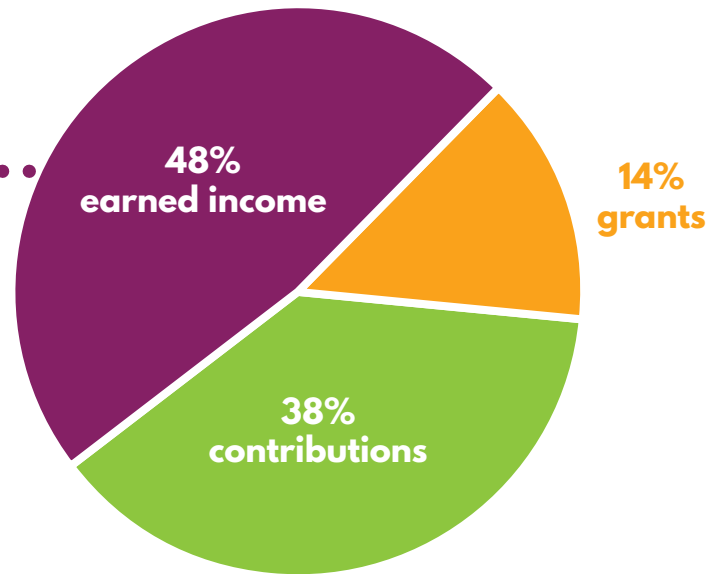
Puzzle Pieces



On one special day each month, the Kansas Children's Discovery Center offers free admission to families with children who have autism spectrum disorders. Children play in a safe and understanding environment where fun activities are designed just for them. Puzzle Pieces served 550 people total at 12 sessions in 2018.

"When you come here it is almost like a safe haven.... The hope that you need, you get it here. That is unlike anything else."

2018 Revenue | \$1,111,971



Key Revenue Numbers

88,423 total visitors
↑ 10.28% increase over 2017

1,773 member families
↑ 11.16% increase over 2017

10,195 field trip students
↑ 33.94% increase over 2017

2,193 birthday guests at
99 birthday parties
↑ 39.86% increase over 2017

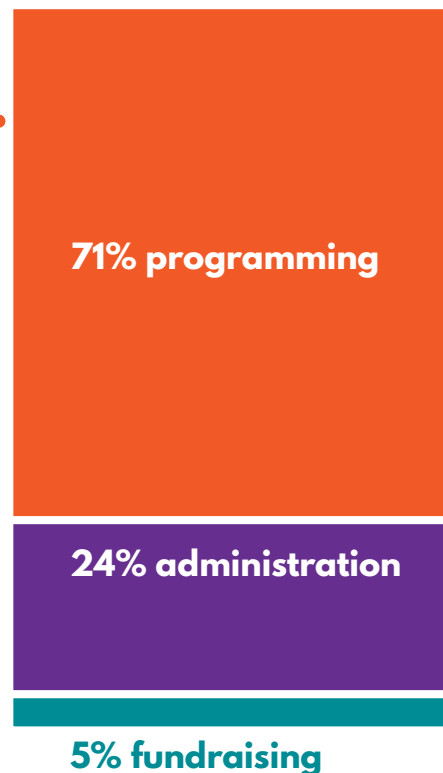
Programming Highlights

3,702 Mobile Museum and
Family STEAM Night participants
★ New program in 2017

737 education programs
↑ 14.09% increase over 2017

22,918 total visitors during *The Pigeon Comes to Topeka! A Mo Willems Exhibit*
↑ 25.48% increase over same time period in 2017

2018 Expenses | \$1,057,551





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