

Fall 2020

## Getting Back to Play

Each day, we are working to redesign the museum for safe play and preserve financial resources for the future of Discovery. In the meantime...



The outdoor adventure area is open 7 days a week for safe play.



150 Discovery at Home videos have reached almost 400,000 views.



Discovery Kindergarten helped kids get ready for school.



Discovery Baby helped first-time parents navigate the pandemic.



Donors helped us deliver 350 free learning kits to low-income and at-risk families.



The outdoor adventure area has a new giant game board, texture kitchen, water mister for hot days + more planned!

Thank you!  
You made all this possible.



Your support will get us through this crisis. The **Discovery Center will fully open again** because of you! We are eager to have families back at the museum making memories and are working hard each and every day to make it happen. Our small team is busy modifying our exhibits, preparing our facility for the return of joy, laughter and discovery. We are so grateful for your belief in the power of play!

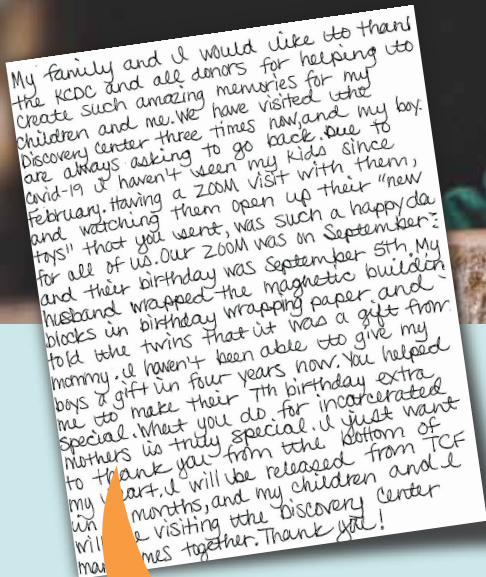

### Community Partners Make Us Stronger

Stormont Vail Health is renting our building on weekdays to provide no-cost child care to their team members. This temporary partnership supports our community's youngest learners while financially strengthening the museum.



*Dené Mosier*

Dené Mosier  
President/CEO  
Kansas Children's  
Discovery Center



My family and I would like to thank the KCDC and all donors for helping to create such amazing memories for my children and me. We have visited the Discovery Center three times now, and my boys are always asking to go back. Due to Covid-19 I haven't seen my kids since February. Having a Zoom visit with them, and watching them open up their "new toys" that you sent, was such a happy day for all of us. Our Zoom was on September 5th, and their birthday was September 5th. My husband wrapped the magnetic building blocks in birthday wrapping paper, and told the twins that it was a gift from mommy. I haven't been able to give my boys a gift in four years now. You helped me to make their 7th birthday extra special. What you do for incarcerated mothers is truly special. I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will be released from TCF in a few months, and my children and I will be visiting the Discovery Center many times together. Thank you!

“My family and I would like to **thank the KCDC and all donors** for helping to create such an amazing memories for my children and me. Having a Zoom visit with them, and watching them open up their ‘new toys’ that you sent, was such a **happy day for all of us**. I haven’t been able to give my boys a gift in four years now. You helped to make their 7th birthday **extra special**. What you do for incarcerated mothers is truly special. I just want to thank you from the **bottom of my heart**.”

- Play Free Participant

## New World, Same Mission

*You made sure Discovery Center access programs were ready to adapt to offer play experiences for every child, even with the museum building closed.*

### Puzzle Pieces

**Who it helps:** Children with an autism spectrum disorder and their families.

**How it changed:** You supported specially-designed video resources full of activities, music and games for these families. On-site play sessions started back up in the fall, outdoors, with limited capacity.

### Play Free

**Who it helps:** Children with incarcerated moms.

**How it changed:** Your support mailed educational toys and books to children, and accompanying learning guides to mothers, so that moms and their children could read a book and play together during online visits.

### Medical Warriors

**Who it helps:** Medically fragile children or those battling life-limiting illnesses who need private play time.

**How it changed:** You ensured the continued availability of this program, which is needed now more than ever, with increased isolation for immune-compromised children.

### Discovery Kindergarten

**Who it helps:** Incoming kindergarten students

**How it changed:** Camp Kindergarten moved online with your support, using Zoom to connect parents and students with teachers. Sessions were offered in English and Spanish. A resource guide was mailed to participating caregivers.

### Museums for All + Admission Access

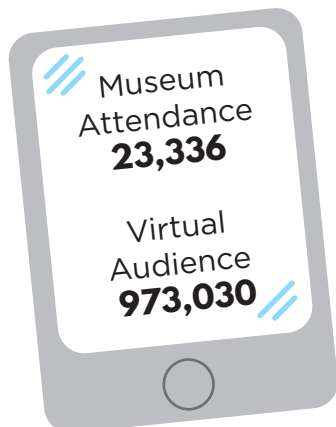
**Who it helps:** Low-income and high-risk families.

**How it changed:** You helped us call each KCDC Cares member family in the early weeks of the pandemic to ask about their needs. Then brought over 350 activity bags to their homes using contactless delivery.

Spring 2021

## On the Bright Side

There is good news about 2020. With your help, we have made great strides in museum redesign and outreach programs. Highlights include:



We know everyone is eager to get back indoors at the Discovery Center. The **Discovery Center's future is bright** and the play experiences that will be offered in 2021 will exceed all expectations. **I am grateful to you**, our loyal and generous supporters, for standing by us, and helping us weather this most unusual and unprecedented storm. **Because of you**, the museum will thrive and enrich our community well into the future.



**Curious George**

**Let's Get Curious!  
Coming Fall 2022**

The much-anticipated *Curious George Let's Get Curious!* traveling exhibit originally scheduled in the fall of 2020 will now be flying into the museum in the fall of 2022!



John Dietrick  
Board Chair  
Kansas Children's  
Discovery Center





## Discovery Center In The News

Here's our latest headlines to keep you in the know.



### Discovery Center Gets Kids Jumping, Playing in Local Parks

Families found educational, fun new additions to the pavement at ten local parks and community centers.



### New Additions Enhance Outdoor Play Space

A stage with seating, new patio tables with umbrellas, and giant logs are among new the new additions.

*Discovery Center Board of Directors: John Dietrick, Melody Devlin, Janelle Brazington, Stephanie Valley, Dr. Ximena Garcia, Barbara Boudreaux, Kathy Damron, Kevin Dobski, Mary Etzel, Kristina Figuerres, Jane Gannaway, Jake Huyett, Dr. Jackie Hyland, Marta Kennedy Morales, Kevin Kongs, Dr. Kent Palmberg, Debra Ricks*  
*President/CEO: Dené Mosier*

# Healing Through Play

*In response to community need, KCDC Cares expands to serve foster children in Shawnee County.*

On any given day in Shawnee County, about **644 children are in foster care** with about 300 families providing foster care services. These children, who have experienced abuse, neglect and uncertainty, need play. Play is a powerful tool to help reduce toxic stress and help children and families heal.

“Play gives children a sense of control because, by definition, play is what we engage in because we want to, not because we have to,” explains Megan Gunnar, Ph.D. “Fantasy **play allows children to create a world where they decide what happens and they can predict what goes on.** Control and predictability are two pillars of stress reduction.”

Anonymous donors have provided funding for a four part initiative to serve these children, starting in this summer.

### Foster Family Memberships

Foster families in Shawnee County will qualify for free family memberships. These memberships will cover their changing family size and allow a guest.

### Camps

Special, half-day camps just for foster children will let children explore STEAM concepts, meet other children and have fun.

### Foster Family Free Concert

A one-night event to bring local foster families together to celebrate, meet other families and enjoy a free meal with live music.

### Crisis Sensory Kits

Boxes of curated sensory experiences designed for children transitioning between home and foster care.