



**Minnesota
Children's
Museum**

2006 Annual Report

Play Is

Mission:

Sparking children's learning through play.

Foundational Beliefs:

Early learning is the foundation for lifelong learning.

Families are our children's first teachers.

All children deserve a time and place to be children.

Diverse perspectives enrich children's lives.

Play is learning.

Important Work!

A child enters the anthill. She is in an ant costume and fully convinced she is one. She crawls through tunnels, finds the Queen ant, and shares the ladder with her fellow ants as they climb up, up. This child is using her imagination to connect to the natural world, one that could lead to a love of science in school, or simply hours of happy entertainment in the backyard.

This experience and hundreds like it take place daily at Minnesota Children's Museum. Are they important? What do they add to the well-being of a child and a family?

In the past ten years, neuroscience has confirmed what educators have long contended: the first years of life are essential to future learning. Through the hands-on interaction of play, children develop important foundational skills, expand their problem-solving abilities and spark a passion for knowledge.

At Minnesota Children's Museum, children learn in many ways. Minnesota Children's Museum produces programs and exhibits that transcend age and experience, and empower children to set their own pace.

Minnesota Children's Museum is uniquely positioned to help parents learn about the needs and development of their children. Our fortified relationships with external resources help further educate and care for children.

In this relaxed, welcoming environment, parents, family members and caregivers can connect with children in meaningful ways and create lasting memories. They can learn something new and enjoy the luxury of becoming part of the play.

We wish to express our most heartfelt thanks to the generous donors who understand the importance of play and support our work. By investing in Minnesota Children's Museum exhibits, programs and outreach, you are strengthening family and community bonds. You are building on a foundation of compassion, curiosity and civic-mindedness. By celebrating the value of childhood and play, you are nurturing tomorrow's most creative thinkers and leaders.



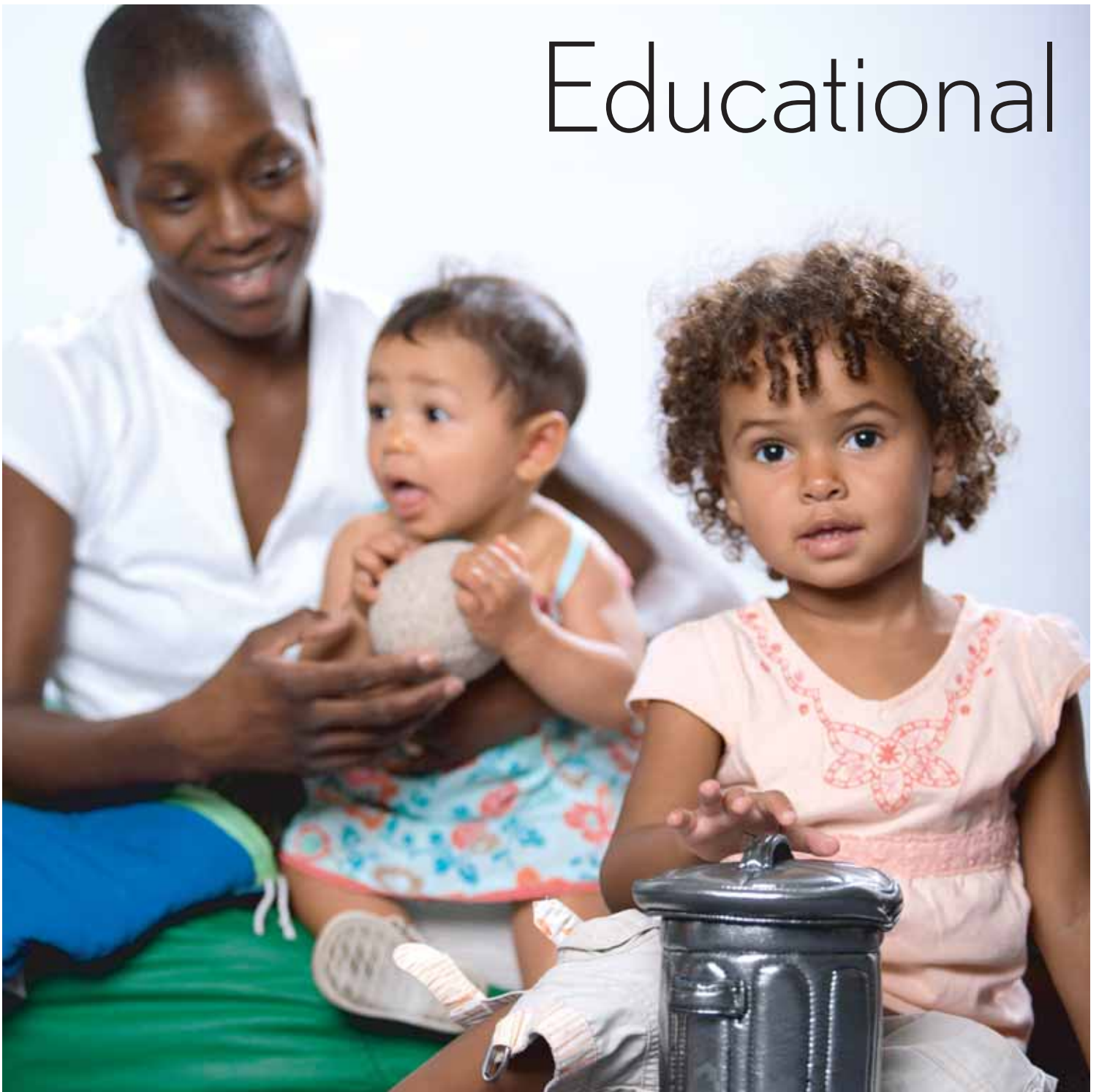
Martha Dayton

Martha Dayton - Board Chair

Sarah Caruso

Sarah Caruso - President, Minnesota Children's Museum

Educational



Expertise: **Raising the Bar**



*The Museum's youngest visitors benefit from the experiential physical environment in the **Habitot** gallery.*

Behind the fun and games at Minnesota Children's Museum is the depth of the Museum staff's educational expertise and its adherence to high standards.

Emily Beckstrom, Early Childhood Education consultant, recently completed an objective assessment of the Museum's early childhood offerings using two objective sets of standards: Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIP) and the National Children's Museum Standards.

Findings concluded that Minnesota Children's Museum has an impressive range of exhibits, programs and partnerships that directly align with ECIP indicators. The Museum is the third major institution to use the National Children's Museum Standards for program evaluation – placing it on the cutting edge of current practices in the field.

These findings have inspired a new vision for the future of the Museum's early childhood programs, and identified opportunities for evolution and improvement of exhibits, programs and community partnerships. Following these initiatives, the Museum is poised to significantly increase its capacity to serve young children and their adult caregivers.

"The fact that Minnesota Children's Museum wanted to use these sophisticated protocols clearly demonstrates its desire to go beyond excellence, to be proactive and move into a true position of leadership," says Beckstrom.



Join the Fun:

Everyone Is Welcome



*With more than 1,000
volunteer hours logged,
Spark Cart veteran
Tom McKeever joins in
the face-painting fun.*

The Museum's community outreach efforts and long-lasting relationships ensured that all visitors, regardless of ability to pay, experienced the importance of play. Through four different Access programs, 31% of all Museum visitors were admitted at free or reduced admission during fiscal year 2006.

- During Target® Free 3rd Sunday, 30,000 children and their adult guests enjoyed all the Museum's opportunities to learn through play.
- Play is important work for 70,285 elementary and preschool students, teachers and chaperones whose visit to the Museum was made possible through reduced admission rates for schools and groups that serve economically disadvantaged children and families.
- Access memberships allowed 1,995 low-income families to enjoy free membership at the Museum. Family Nights provided a cost-free way for families participating in Ramsey County, Hennepin County and Anoka/Washington County Head Start programs to get acquainted with the Museum during an evening of play *and* get an Access membership.
- Passport to Play, available for check out at the Saint Paul and Dakota County libraries, provided free admission for 11,186 visitors.

Community Faces



& Places:

Happy Children, Whole Communities



A Hmong dance group from the West Side of St. Paul produced a video for the Our World gallery.

In August 2005, the Museum received a \$150,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund its Community Faces and Places initiative. This initiative established deep and enduring relationships with culturally rich communities in West St. Paul. Through its collaboration with the West Side Citizens Organization (WSCO), the Museum opened doors and built reciprocal bridges between the neighborhood and our organization, enabling families, projects and the value of play to move freely among the Museum and West Side community.

“They were unstoppable in their determination to develop innovative ways to diversify their audience for the greater good of the community,” says Joe Spencer, one of the original WSCO organizers. “With a population that’s 37% Latino, we saw it as a win-win situation and that’s proven to be true.”

Funding from Best Buy Children’s Foundation and The Saint Paul Foundation, together with the IMLS grant, allowed the Museum to revitalize the *Our World* gallery with input from its West Side partners. *Our World’s* Community Gallery showcases exhibited work by young residents of Saint Paul’s West Side community; artwork by students in an artist-in-residency program; and a video created by a West Side Hmong dance group. The new Studio Express sets the stage for children to explore cooperation, respect and technology as they star in their own music video.

Award -



Winning Program:

Supporting Healthy Communities



*Learning is easy for
children when they have
the opportunity for
“hands-on” play.*

Minnesota Children’s Museum received the 2006 Association of Children’s Museums Promising Practice Award presented by MetLife Foundation for the *Wakanheza* program. The *Wakanheza* program was initiated by Ramsey County to strengthen and enhance Museum staff interaction with children, youth and families in a peaceful, supportive way. *Wakanheza* is the Dakota word for “child”—the closest English translation is “sacred being.”

The award honors innovative management and programming practices that support healthy kids, families and communities. Minnesota Children’s Museum’s program provided staff training to respond to and diffuse difficult adult-child situations in a non-judgmental, calming manner. The training has been so successful that the Museum and Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health continue to co-present the *Wakanheza* program to other agencies and organizations.



Exhibits:

Building Fun on a Solid Foundation



*Museum employees
Dean Tschider
and Tim Reddy
prepare to build
the next exhibit.*

Minnesota Children's Museum is the largest producer of children's museum traveling exhibits in the country. The Museum's exhibits are regularly recognized in the press. The May 29, 2006 issue of *Newsweek* featured two exhibits built by Minnesota Children's Museum for their excellence.

The Museum is one of a handful of children's museums that develops, designs and constructs its exhibits in-house. In addition to our five permanent galleries, the Museum has created four traveling exhibits.

Minnesota Children's Museum was recently licensed by Universal Studios to produce a Curious George™ exhibit. No small feat, the Museum competed against many others for the opportunity. "Ultimately, it was about their experience and passion," says Cindy Chang, Vice President of Publishing, NBC Universal.



The Importance of Our Donors:

We Couldn't Do It Without You!



*Supporting the Museum
in many ways, Martha
Meyers understands the
importance of engaging
children in learning at
a young age.*

Minnesota Children's Museum is deeply grateful for the financial contributions of its donors. Without this support, the Museum's work would not be possible.

Martha Meyers, a donor and former Museum board president says, "Our children need champions and I've never been involved with any organization more dedicated to the welfare and well-being of kids than Minnesota Children's Museum."

It was always clear to Meyers that the Museum wanted, more than anything, to be taken seriously. "And they've certainly achieved that," Meyers says. However, with this success she sees a critical need for additional funding as the Museum deepens its community partnerships, and develops cutting-edge exhibits and programs.

"Forty-two percent of the Museum's budget is from donors," Meyers says. She sees the importance of early childhood education and its ability to open doors in life as indisputable. "Now neuroscience has caught up with what organizations like Minnesota Children's Museum seem to have always known and what I've always held as a personal belief," she says. "There is wonderful learning that takes place by doing."

2006 Annual Fund

Individual Donors

We thank all of our individual donors for their personal commitment and generosity to our 2006 Annual Fund. Your support is essential as we work to reach more children and families with our mission of sparking children's learning through play.

Children's Circle

We are especially grateful to the following individuals who form our 2006 Children's Circle by giving a gift of \$1,000 or more to the 2006 Annual Fund.

☀ \$10,000 and above

Martha Dayton and Thomas Nelson

◆ \$5,000 - \$9,999

John Larsen Foundation
Michael and Cathy Lee
Martha and Bill Meyers
Gina and Thomas Sprenger
Terri Tersteeg and Jim Peterson



★ \$2,500- \$4,999

Thomas Abood
Anonymous
Craig Bentdahl and Stephanie Simon
Sarah and Jerry Caruso
Beverlee Dorn
Amy Giovanini and Ben Ahrens
Elizabeth and Michael Gorman
James and Rochelle Heinz
Lori Larson and David Yesnes
McCarthy-Bjorklund Foundation
Bill and Amy McKinney
Dwight D. Opperman
Dan Schmechel and Wilhelmina Wright
Richard and Catherine Schmoker
William and Cindy Schmoker
Robert Sheehy and Andrea Kmetz-Sheehy

● \$1,000-\$2,499

Darren Acheson and Carol Peterson
Peter and Susan Ahm
Kari and William Alldredge
Charlene and Mark Altman
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation

Sarah J. Andersen
Anonymous (4)
James and Debra Arneson
Martha and Bruce Atwater Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Gordon and Margaret Bailey
Burdick-Craddick Family Foundation
Cathy and Sean Callahan
Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation
Michael and Ann Ciresi
John and Lynn Clifford
Henry and Kristi Cousineau
Ellen and Craig Crump
David and Vanessa Dayton
Edward and Sherry Ann Dayton
Jim and Megan Dayton
Julia W. Dayton
Mark Dayton
Scott and Ann Dayton
Jack and Claire Dempsey
Doug and Katharine Donaldson
Dougherty Family Foundation
Bridget and Sean Ennevor
Julia Ferguson and Richard Rinkoff
Kelly and Jim Frankenfild
Steven and Aisha Friswold
Estate of Paula L. Gottschalk
Roger Griffith and Jean Taylor
Marialice and Nevin Harwood
Mary Jane Haugh
Lisa and Boyd Hesdorffer
Christine and David Hobrough
Kim and Willard Hunnewell
Charles and Anne Johnson
Kathryn Klibanoff and Jeremy Edes Pierotti
Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
Kim and Steve Koeppen
Maureen and Donald Kvam
Dale and Jodeen LaFrenz
Mary and James Lawrence
Susan and Harry McNeely III
Michelle and Matthew Mesenburg
Katie and William Miller
Ford and Catherine Nicholson
Jackie and Scott Northard
Cassy and Philip Ordway
John and Marla Ordway
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Ordway, Jr.
Nancy Owen and John Lavander
Marcia Page and John Huepenbecker
Linnea and Steve Pajor
William and Joanne Patterson
Katherine and Stephanie Jo Payne
Carleen Rhodes
Par and Sara Ridder
John and Lois Rogers
Larry and Terrie Rose
Ann Simonds
Edson and Val Spencer
Robin and David Sternberg
Terhuly Foundation

Nancy and David Warner
Richard and Gail Weinberg
Betsy and David Weyerhaeuser
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wiltz

Advocate \$500- \$999

Winston and Barbara Adams
Mark Addicks
Carol Aegether
Anonymous (2)
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald C. Backhaus
William and Barbara Beard
Peter Benson and Carolyn Munson-Benson
Ann and Jay Boekhoff
Susan and William Costello
Douglas and Sarah Crowther
Littton and Anne Field
Beverly and Richard Fink Family Foundation
Dr. P.J. and Linda Flynn
Fred and Marie Friswold
Nancy and Robert Hatch
Jack and Kate Helms
Julie and Steve Henseler
Arthur and Martha Kaemmer
Laura Beth Landy and Michael Israel
LeJeune Family Foundation
Peter and Kristine Maritz
Edwin and Susan McCarthy
Katherine Nason
Bart and Kandi Osborn
Susan and Thomas Oswald
Robert J. Owens
Richard and Keri Pakonen
Suzanne and William Payne
Kelly and Chris Perry
Randall and Gail Ross
John Sieff and Philip Sieff
Jeffrey and Helene Slocum
Dave and Kara Therkelsen
Manny and Elizabeth Villafana
Michael and Barbara Wigley

Patron \$250- \$499

Gregory Allen
Keri and Phillip Bahar
Gordon and Jo Bailey



John Bergquist and Inez Waltman Bergquist
Susan and David Crist
Toby and Mae Dayton
Kevin and Elizabeth Dooley
Carl B. Drake, Jr.
Lyle Drews
Corey and Kelly Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. David P. Grandstrand
Jack Hansen and Joan LeGare-Hansen
Charles and Helen Hayssen
Anne and Peter Heegaard
Donald Helgeson
Peter and Wendy Hitch
Chris and Val Jackson
Jeff and Ruth Klepfer
Jason and Janice Korstange
Ilo and Peggy Leppik
Charles Lodge and Katey Leitch
Chris and Sharon McGrann
Mark and Beth Mitchell
James and Kathy Morton
Tim and Maggie Nolde
Melissa and James O'Shaughnessy
Christy O'Shea Novak
Stephanie and Michael Ott
Martyn and Lynne Redgrave
Scott and Jill Sando
Sanger Family Foundation
Susan and Jonathan Seltzer
Michelle and Marcus Sheire
Rose Sherman and John Wilson
Kaye Smith and Robert Kieschke
Nikki Sorum and Simon Foster
Edson and Harriet Spencer
Amy and Rob Stolpestad
Russ and Lori Swansen
Jon and Leah Theobald
Corinna and Andrew Troth
Gedney and Emily Ann Tuttle
Jeanne Vergeront and Andrew Dick
Ann and David Wasson
Fred and Liz Weiner
Jeff and Mary Werbalowsky
Helen and J. Kimball Whitney
Mr. and Ms. Frank S. Wilkinson, Jr.
Kenneth and Ruth Wilson
Charles and Julie Zelle

Corporate and Foundation Donors

We are grateful to the following corporations and foundations for their support of the 2006 Annual Fund.

\$50,000 and above

Best Buy Children's Foundation
Bush Foundation
General Mills Foundation
Macy's North
The McKnight Foundation
The Saint Paul Foundation
Target

\$25,000-\$49,999

3M Foundation
The Bayport Foundation of Andersen Corporation
Ecolab Foundation
The Medtronic Foundation
Seagate Technology
St. Paul Travelers Foundation

\$10,000- \$24,999

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
The Cargill Foundation
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Guidant Foundation
The McNeely Foundation
Pentair Foundation
Star Tribune Foundation
TCF Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota
Xcel Energy Foundation

\$5,000- \$9,999

Allianz Life Insurance Co.
Andersen Corporation
Beckman Coulter, Inc.
Boss Foundation
H.B. Fuller Company Foundation
Richard Coyle Lilly Foundation
MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation
MetLife Foundation
Minnesota College Savings Plan
Piper Jaffray Foundation
Carl & Eloise Pohlard Family Foundation
Qwest Foundation for Minnesota
RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation
Rosemount, Inc.
Securian Foundation
Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Foundation

\$2,500- \$4,999

Athwin Foundation
Boston Scientific Scimed
CHS Foundation
Cottonelle
Dellwood Foundation, Inc.
Malt-O-Meal Company
Margaret Rivers Fund
St. Croix Foundation
Toro Foundation

\$1,000- \$2,499

Acordia
Alliance Pipeline
Chesapeake Companies
Edwin W. and Catherine M. Davis Foundation
Faegre & Benson Foundation
Grant Thornton
Heraeus Vadnais Inc.
The Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation

Hutchinson Technology, Inc.
Jostens Foundation, Inc.
Margaret H. & James E. Kelley Foundation, Inc.
Nordstrom, Inc.
The Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation, Inc.
Sense of Smell Institute
Sit Investment Associates, Inc.
Tennant Foundation
Thomson West

Exhibit Sponsors

The Medtronic Foundation - *The Magic School Bus™ Kicks Up A Storm*
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. - *Joshua's Journey: A Black Cowboy Rides the Chisolm Trail*
Xcel Energy Foundation - *SnowBall! Winter Fun*

**Corporate Matching Gifts**

Adobe Systems Incorporated Matching Gift Program
Ameriprise Financial Employee Giving Campaign
Briggs & Morgan
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation
Engelsma Family Foundation
General Mills Foundation
Lawson Software
The May Department Stores Company Foundation
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Piper Jaffray Foundation
RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation
St. Paul Travelers Foundation
TCF Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota
Xcel Energy Foundation

Government Support

City of St. Paul Cultural STAR Program
Institute of Museum and Library Services
State of Minnesota

In-Kind Support

Gene Altstatt
Bailey Nurseries Inc.
Robert Blount
Barbara Camarata and Craig Marble

Campbell Mithun
Sarah Caruso
Clear Channel
Comcast
Mark Curwick
Renee Frisch
Fuji Ya
General Mills
KARE 11
KS95
Mary Lee
Anne Mazurowski
Mpls. St. Paul Magazine
Minnesota Parent
Minnesota Spokesman Recorder
Philips Lighting Company
Pioneer Press
Smart Associates
Star Tribune
Susan Snyder Austin
Mary Jo Thorsheim
Twin Cities Public Television
The Valspar Foundation
Vocalabs Vocal Laboratories, Inc.
Yellow Book USA

SPF'06 - 2006 Gala Benefit

Presenting Sponsor \$25,000
Excel Bank

Décor Sponsor \$15,000

Macy's North

Benefactor \$10,000

Best Buy
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Target

Sustainers \$5,000

Anderson Corporation
D'Amico Catering
LaSalle Bank, N.A.
McKinsey & Company
Mpls. St. Paul Magazine
Polaris
Showcore
Star Tribune
Twin Cities Business Monthly
US Bank
U.S. Trust
Wells Fargo

Advocates \$3,500

Bernstein Investment Research & Management
Brookfield Property Management
Ecolab
Goldsmith, Agio, Helms & Lynner, LLC
Imation
Xcel Energy

Partners \$2,000

@ Home Apartments
ATS Medical
Briggs & Morgan
Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, P.A.

LarsonAllen
TCF Foundation
Vomela Specialty Company
Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.

Patron

Thomas Abood
Susan and Nick Burke
Scott and Julie Card
Jim and Bonnie D'Aquila
Martha Dayton and Tom Nelson
Dougherty Family Foundation
Bridget and Sean Ennevor
Amy Giovanini and Ben Ahrens
Graphic Design, Inc.
Kim and Dan Nayman
Cassy and Philip Ordway
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Ordway, Jr.
Ellen and Dave Phelps
Matt and Sarah Rand
Kris and Steve Rose
Richard and Catherine Schmoker
William and Cindy Schmoker
Ann Simonds
Jeffrey and Helene Slocum

Thanks also to..

Featherlite Exhibits
FIJI Water
The Lusso Collection
Phillips Distilling Company
Skyway Event Services
Summit Brewing Company
www.musicalstyles.com

Minnesota Children's Museum extends a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, who contributed 11,392 hours during FY06.

Thanks to the parents, children and Brian Scott Holman Photography for their time and effort during our annual report photographic session.



Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2006

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	1,492,547
Accounts Receivable		62,566
Pledges and Grants Receivable		1,147,605
Prepaid Expenses		161,437
Investments		4,891,338
Land, Building and Equipment, Net		7,654,511

Total Assets \$ **15,410,004**

Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$	256,167
Deferred Revenue		685,650
Total Liabilities		941,817

Net Assets

Unrestricted - Undesignated		905,410
Unrestricted - Designated*		1,612,708
Temporarily Restricted		7,761,241
Permanently Restricted		4,188,828
Total Net Assets		14,468,187

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ **15,410,004**

Statement of Activity Year Ended June 30, 2006

Support and Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$	2,561,605
Museum Admissions		1,078,139
Memberships		613,600
Program Income		700,087
Investment Income		509,878
Other Income		449,672
Total Support and Revenue	\$	5,912,981

Expenses

Program	\$	3,867,072
Administrative		1,332,293
Fundraising		345,473
Total Expenses	\$	5,544,838

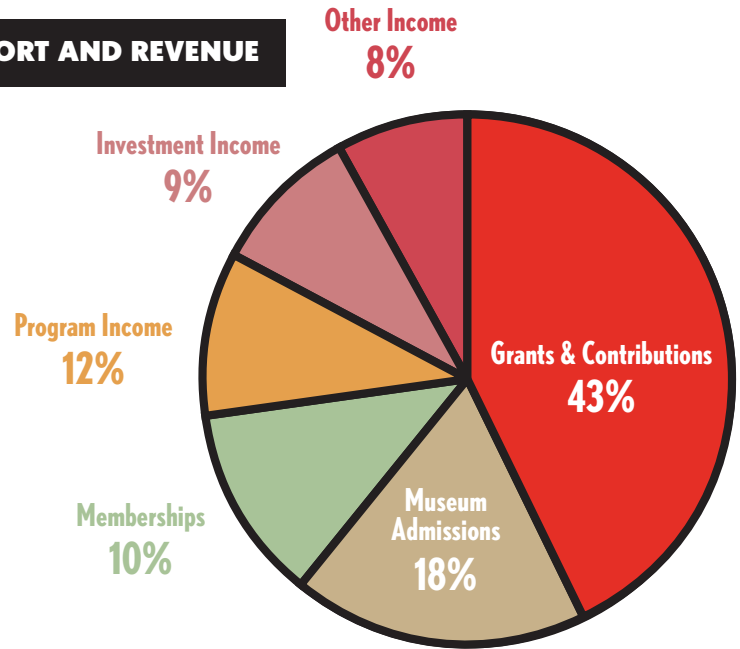
Change in Net Assets 368,143

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 14,100,044
 Net Assets, End of Year 14,468,187

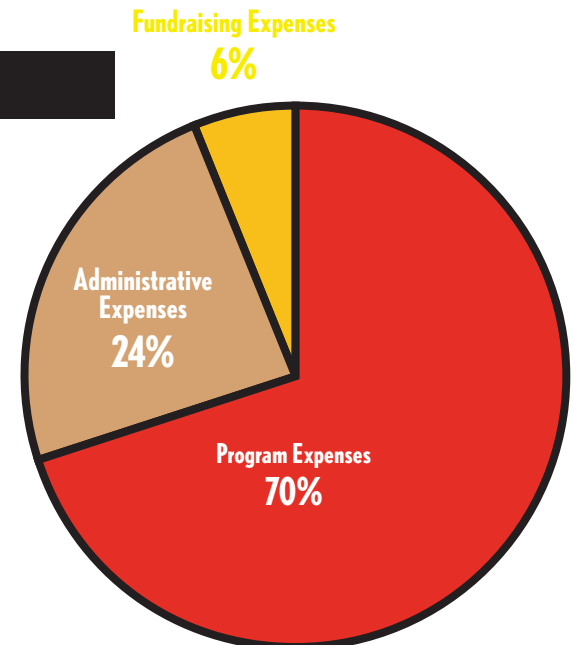
*Unrestricted-Designated Net Assets includes amounts designated by the Board of Directors for the following purposes:

Fixed Asset Replacement	550,000
Cash Operating Reserve	275,000
Endowment Cumulative Earnings	787,708

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



EXPENSES





Minnesota Children's Museum 2005/06 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Martha Dayton, Chair
Thomas Abood, Chair-Elect
Peter Leppik, Treasurer
Randall Ross, Secretary
Steven Friswold
James Heinz
Maureen Kvam
William Schmoker

Board Members

Kari Alldredge
Charlene Altman
Peter Benson
Craig Bentsdahl
John Clifford
Kelly Frankenfeld
Amy Giovanini
Tim Hawley
Charles Johnson
Jason Korstange
Joann Knuth
Karen Larson
Lori Larson
Michael Lee
Kathryn Lovaas
Bill McKinney
Susan McNeely
Michelle Mesenburg
Geoffrey Michel
Thomas Rooney
Dan Schmechel
Ann Simonds
Nora Slawik
Gina Sprenger
Robin Sternberg
Terri Tersteeg
Richard Weinberg

Minnesota
Children's
Museum

10 West Seventh Street **St. Paul, MN 55102** 651-225-6001 www.MCM.org