At the beginning of each year, we take time to reflect on the past year’s successes and challenges, and make plans to make the upcoming year even better than the last. It is always interesting to see what you think of when you look back on the past, and during 2018, I am thankful we were able to create many happy memories with our visitors.

Last year, we accomplished so much with your support! We were able to offer new experiences to our visitors through visiting exhibits like Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!, and Very Eric Carle, and the return of our Journey to the North Pole holiday exhibit, with the addition of Santa’s Stable! We hosted exciting events like Ignite the Night: Mississippi Music, Bunnies and Butterflies, the Mississippi Science Fest, and Park After Dark. We even traveled the state, hosting our Planting the Seeds to Read literacy program at the B. B. King Museum in Indianola, sending our Roll, Match, Read traveling exhibit to locations in Northeast Mississippi, and working with community members in Meridian to build our first satellite museum.

I know that 2019 will be full of joy, learning, and fun! I am already thankful for your continued support of MCM and our mission to provide unparalleled experiences for children. Whether it is during our upcoming visiting exhibit Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood: A Grr-ific Exhibit, or by participating in new programs for children and families and attending events throughout the year, I hope you will continue to play, learn, and imagine with us!

Susan Garrard, Mississippi Children’s Museum President/CEO
MCM Leads the Way for Mississippi's Children

Eating right, exercising, and taking care of oneself isn’t just important, it is essential for mental and physical development of both children and adults. Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) strives to provide the tools to make healthy choices through fun physical activities and interactive educational programs - helping children and their families understand the importance of making good choices.

MCM is a strong supporter of health and nutrition initiatives, which can be seen throughout our museum. From programs like Know to Grow and Fit for Fun, to exhibits in the Healthy Fun! gallery or Pollinator’s Playground, MCM is dedicated to offering children of all ages and fitness levels fun, interactive educational opportunities about how to be healthy. In the Healthy Fun! gallery, children and their families learn about body systems while exploring the Gastro Climber or find fun facts about nutritious foods while playing in our Farmer’s Market truck. In the Pollinator’s Playground, visitors can study the central role pollinators like bees and butterflies play in the growth of fruits and vegetables. MCM engages children in a variety of ways, through exploration and play, story-telling, programs at the museum, and even outreach across the state.

“MCM was built with a mission to improve the health and literacy of Mississippi’s children, because the two go hand-in-hand,” says Sheri Bradford, Assistant Director of Enrichment. “Research shows that children who make healthy lifestyle choices, like exercising and choosing nutritionally sound foods, are more successful students. The hands-on programs we offer at MCM, such as Fit for Fun and Fueled for Adventure involve children in making good decisions in a fun and interactive way, which is the best way for them to remember what they’ve learned and continue making healthy choices.”

Understanding and implementing healthy behaviors is not just for children. MCM also offers programs for parents and caregivers, educators, and community members. Many of our programs, such as Play. Eat. Learn., are led by experts in their field, making important information about health, nutrition, and wellness accessible and available to the children and families of Mississippi. “MCM also brings some of our health-focused programs to groups outside of the museum through outreach efforts,” Bradford adds. “Fit for Fun and Get Heart Smart are two of our most popular programs for outreach into communities throughout Mississippi.”

Because Mississippi consistently ranks as one of the unhealthiest states in the country, it is vital that MCM provides valuable information about health and nutrition in order for children and their families to apply in their own lives. The children of Mississippi are our future, and being healthy means longer, happier lives. >>>

MCM LEADS THE WAY FOR MISSISSIPPI’S CHILDREN

Eating right, exercising, and taking care of oneself isn’t just important, it is essential for mental and physical development of both children and adults. Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) strives to provide the tools to make healthy choices through fun physical activities and interactive educational programs - helping children and their families understand the importance of making good choices.

MCM is a strong supporter of health and nutrition initiatives, which can be seen throughout our museum. From programs like Know to Grow and Fit for Fun, to exhibits in the Healthy Fun! gallery or Pollinator’s Playground, MCM is dedicated to offering children of all ages and fitness levels fun, interactive educational opportunities about how to be healthy. In the Healthy Fun! gallery, children and their families learn about body systems while exploring the Gastro Climber or find fun facts about nutritious foods while playing in our Farmer’s Market truck. In the Pollinator’s Playground, visitors can study the central role pollinators like bees and butterflies play in the growth of fruits and vegetables. MCM engages children in a variety of ways, through exploration and play, story-telling, programs at the museum, and even outreach across the state.

“MCM was built with a mission to improve the health and literacy of Mississippi’s children, because the two go hand-in-hand,” says Sheri Bradford, Assistant Director of Enrichment. “Research shows that children who make healthy lifestyle choices, like exercising and choosing nutritionally sound foods, are more successful students. The hands-on programs we offer at MCM, such as Fit for Fun and Fueled for Adventure involve children in making good decisions in a fun and interactive way, which is the best way for them to remember what they’ve learned and continue making healthy choices.”

Understanding and implementing healthy behaviors is not just for children. MCM also offers programs for parents and caregivers, educators, and community members. Many of our programs, such as Play. Eat. Learn., are led by experts in their field, making important information about health, nutrition, and wellness accessible and available to the children and families of Mississippi. “MCM also brings some of our health-focused programs to groups outside of the museum through outreach efforts,” Bradford adds. “Fit for Fun and Get Heart Smart are two of our most popular programs for outreach into communities throughout Mississippi.”

Because Mississippi consistently ranks as one of the unhealthiest states in the country, it is vital that MCM provides valuable information about health and nutrition in order for children and their families to apply in their own lives. The children of Mississippi are our future, and being healthy means longer, happier lives. >>>
MCM’S HEALTH & NUTRITION BASED PROGRAMS

FUELED FOR ADVENTURE
Fridays @ 3:30 pm

Supported by St. Dominic Health Systems, Fueled for Adventure promotes healthy eating by providing easy and affordable afternoon snack ideas for children and families. Each week, children can create healthy, nutritional snacks at MCM’s Red Rocket Café while learning exactly what makes foods good—or bad—for your body.

By discovering about nutrition using real-world examples, visitors can apply lessons about food in a variety of settings, whether at home, in a restaurant, or at school. For example, by learning the Vitamin A in carrots supports healthy eyes and skin or the protein in ham helps build muscle, children can be mindful when choosing what to eat. Fueled for Adventure encourages us to have fun with food by trying new things and learning new ways to prepare foods we already know and love. Families are invited to take home the recipes for the foods they have tried.

“At St. Dominic’s, we seek to give time, talents and resources to make our communities better places to live, and supporting Fueled for Adventure at the Mississippi Children’s Museum is one way we achieve this mission,” says Claude W. Harbarger, President of St. Dominic Health Services. “It is so important to teach children about healthy habits and nutrition when they are young, and this program makes eating healthy snacks fun for families.”

FIT FOR FUN
Wednesdays @ 3:30 pm

At MCM, being healthy means exercising with your brain and your body. MCM’s newest weekly program, Fit for Fun, encourages children to get active through hands-on, STEAM-based learning activities focused on nutrition, fitness, and movement.

Open to all ages and fitness levels, Fit for Fun uses dance and music to encourage children to get up and move while also learning why exercise matters and how nutrition works. In addition to teaching health through science activities, this program aims to improve motor skills and spatial awareness in younger children while increasing aerobic fitness and strength in older children. Fit for Fun helps children and their families cultivate long-term healthy habits to build strong bodies and sound minds.

“Childhood obesity is a growing problem in the United States, and especially in the South,” Caitlin Hayden, Community Relations Representative at Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, comments. “Baptist is glad to partner with Mississippi Children’s Museum to address this issue through the Fit for Fun program. Encouraging healthy habits at an early age is key to a healthier Mississippi.”

Sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, this weekly program is also available for outreach and as a special program option for field trip groups.

FOOD LAB
Magic Mondays @ 3:30 pm

During Food Lab, visitors are invited to become scientists and investigate the science behind food. Why do popsicles freeze? How is butter made and what is an emulsion? Why do egg whites fluff when whipped? Food Lab delves into these questions and more, engaging the five senses to understand the role food plays in our daily lives and just how food works. By incorporating science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) with the study of food, children and their families can learn about nutrition while exploring science in a fun, hands-on way. Join us for Food Lab on Magic Mondays at 3:30 pm! This program is sponsored by Sysco Jackson.

GET HEART SMART
Outreach Program

It is never too early to learn about heart health, and Get Heart Smart is a fun, interactive way to understand not only what the heart does, but how to keep it strong and healthy. In this program, which is available for outreach throughout Mississippi, children travel the heart’s circulatory system as red blood cells, tracing the path blood takes through the heart. In addition to educating children on the physical properties of the heart, this larger-than-life map engages children through exercise by making learning active, combining physical activity and important health education. Learning how the heart functions is the foundation of heart health, and this innovative program gives children the tools necessary to make smart decisions for a healthy future.

Sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, this weekly program is also available for outreach and as a special program option for field trip groups.

Sponsored by St. Dominic’s

Sponsored by Sysco Jackson
**QUESTION IT? DISCOVER IT!**

| Monthly |

Science is the name of the game during Question It? Discover It! (QI?DI!). This monthly program explores health and nutrition through science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), encouraging children to investigate health through inquiry-based, interactive learning. From discovering about body systems from the lens of dentistry, childhood development, or brain health, visitors are empowered to make positive health and nutrition choices.

Sponsored by Children’s of Mississippi, a part of University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), QI?DI! allows children and their families to engage with staff, UMMC professionals, and guest presenters while furthering UMMC’s goal to positively impact the lives of Mississipians through health education.

“Children’s of Mississippi is proud to partner with the Mississippi Children’s Museum to make the QI?DI! program available to children each month,” says Dr. Lisa Didion. “QI?DI! events allow our medical professionals to engage with children in a non-medical setting with STEAM-based activities designed to tap into a child’s natural curiosity. The various medical specialties and services available at Children’s of Mississippi and UMMC provide a rich source of content and programming ideas. We look forward to the continued partnership with MCM and are grateful for this opportunity to work with our community’s youth.”

**FARM BUREAU SPOTLIGHT**

| Fridays @ 10:00 am |

As one of MCM’s original weekly programs, Farm Bureau Spotlight uses hands-on, inquiry-based activities to educate visitors about the wide world of agriculture. During this weekly program, children and their families learn about food science, farming, aquaculture, forestry, and more all while participating in fun, educational activities.

The main goal of Farm Bureau Spotlight is to introduce visitors to the importance of agriculture in our daily lives and in our state’s economy. While Farm Bureau Spotlight, which is sponsored by Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, celebrates Mississippi’s role as a leader in agriculture, it also creates connections between agriculture and the food we eat. This program delves into how food is grown or produced and the importance of food for a healthy body in a fun and accessible way.

“At the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, we believe knowing where your food comes from encourages children and adults to eat healthy, nutritious food,” Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick said. “The partnership between the Mississippi Children’s Museum and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation is a perfect match for showing our young folks what makes agriculture so important to Mississippi and to them as they continue to grow.”

Farm Bureau Spotlight is now offered as a program option for field trip groups. Also, Farm Bureau members receive half-off the price of admission on Fridays when they show their Farm Bureau membership card at our front desk.

**KNOW TO GROW**

| Saturdays @ 10:00 am |

As the weather grows warmer, join MCM staff in the Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. for Know to Grow, a fun-filled, hands-on gardening program. Sponsored by Feild Cooperative Association, Inc., Know to Grow engages children in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) while exploring where food comes from, the role fruits and vegetables play in a healthy, balanced, diet, and the science of nutrition. Visitors can listen to a garden-related story and then get their hands dirty in our edible garden or another gardening activity, inviting them to become active participants in the life cycle of plants while learning about the importance of good nutrition.

Sponsored by

FEILD COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

For more information about field trips and group visits, e-mail MCM’s Education Coordinator, Phillip Weisenberger, at fieldtrips@mcm.ms or call 601.709.8980.

**BOOK A FIELD TRIP!**

We offer an exciting and engaging environment where children can create, explore, and grow. We do the work to make your field trip an educational experience, so you can have all the fun!

For more information about field trips and group visits, e-mail MCM’s Education Coordinator, Phillip Weisenberger, at fieldtrips@mcm.ms or call 601.709.8980.
The best way to learn about nutrition is through hands-on, interactive activities, and MCM is the perfect place to dig in with our Jack and the Beanstalk Edible Garden in the Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden and the native flowers growing in Pollinator’s Playground. By using our gardens for our programs, MCM encourages children to learn how plants grow and become food. In our Literacy Garden, visitors learn about the plant cycle, farming, and the importance of good nutrition. By observing pollinators in action in our Pollinator’s Playground, children learn about their role in food and plant production. The Pollinator’s Playground is sponsored by the Mapp Family Foundation and the Garden Club of Jackson.

“The Pollinator’s Playground at MCM serves as a living laboratory and teaches families about the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem,” says Louis Mapp of the Mapp Family Foundation. “When children see the impact of pollinators on gardens and other food sources first hand, they better understand how healthy foods are grown.”

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.

MCM’s Healthy Fun! gallery makes learning about our bodies and nutrition an adventure! Whether we are exploring the gastrointestinal system in the Gastro Climber or examining skeletons in Boney You, Healthy Fun! is the place to learn all about how we fuel our bodies with nutritious food to help us work and grow.

In this gallery, children and their families explore body systems, learn about nutrition and making healthy choices at our Farmer’s Market Truck and in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and discover how to get fit at home using everyday household items and chores in Home Par Course. Healthy Fun! provides easy to understand information about fitness and nutrition, inviting visitors to take these important lessons home and incorporate them into their daily lives.
Join MCM after hours on February 9, 2019 for Ignite the Night: Hamptons Holiday, an adults-only signature fundraising event hosted by the Mississippi Children’s Museum Partners. Cast out the cold during this summer-themed, Long Island getaway while enjoying the summer colony’s finest culinary offerings and creative cocktails, playing to win at whimsical lawn games, and getting a taste of the New York elite’s most luxurious night life. Guests can also bid on a wide variety of items in a silent auction, explore decked-out galleries come to life, and dance the night away to festive music.

Proceeds from this event go towards funding MCM operations and programs, helping the museum provide unparalleled adventure and discovery for the children of Mississippi.

‘It has been rewarding to watch the Play. Eat. Learn. series grow exponentially, thanks to the generosity of the Junior League of Jackson and the Mississippi Children’s Museum,’ says Sara Hart Fellows, the Community Relations Coordinator at CAY. ‘Because of MCM’s fabulous facilities, the series has attracted new families and members of the community who hadn’t known about our events in the past. It’s heartening to see so many people have the opportunity to learn from developmental and behavioral experts at CAY, while enjoying complementary dinners and childcare. It has truly been a gift!’

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!

Come Play with Me: The Importance of Play in the Developing Child
Tuesday, February 26 • 6:00 - 7:15 pm

The Sensory World of a Child
Tuesday, April 30 • 6:00 - 7:15 pm

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 IGNITE THE NIGHT COMMITTEE!

Standing: Carter Hood, Kristen Mason, Carmen Gross, Ginny DeHart, Jennifer Hopping, Lori Quarles, Charlotte Selti, Seated: Megan Adams, Kendall Poole Ellis - Chair, Natalie Levanway - Co-Chair, Mary Stratton Smith

*Visit our website (mschildrensmuseum.org) to view a full list of committee members.

Parties, Dancing, Seaside Mansions, COME ENJOY THE MAGIC OF THE HAMPTONS!

Join MCM after hours on February 9, 2019 for Ignite the Night: Hamptons Holiday, an adults-only signature fundraising event hosted by the Mississippi Children’s Museum Partners. Cast out the cold during this summer-themed, Long Island getaway while enjoying the summer colony’s finest culinary offerings and creative cocktails, playing to win at whimsical lawn games, and getting a taste of the New York elite’s most luxurious night life. Guests can also bid on a wide variety of items in a silent auction, explore decked-out galleries come to life, and dance the night away to festive music.

Proceeds from this event go towards funding MCM operations and programs, helping the museum provide unparalleled adventure and discovery for the children of Mississippi.

Ignite the Night: Hamptons Holiday is presented by BankPlus and sponsored by Kroger, Davaine Lighting, Fondren Cellars, Galleries, Mercedes-Benz of Jackson, Mississippi Tent and Party Rental, and Seafood R’evolution. Purchase tickets online today!
Being healthy doesn’t just mean having strong muscles and a fit heart. It also means taking care of our most important organ—our brain. At MCM-Meridian, the My Best Me gallery will be an interactive, educational, and fun-filled space to learn about everything our brains do for us, from processing emotions like happiness to powering our muscles and lungs. Children will have the opportunity to learn how to take care of their brains with emotional understanding, exercise and nutrition, and positive sleep habits in this new space.

MCM-Meridian’s My Best Me gallery has been developed in partnership with experts from the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), the Center for the Advancement of Youth (CAY), Mississippi State University (MSU), Rush Health Systems, and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. These field experts are vital in the creation of this unique space, ensuring its design reflects the health goals of the state of Mississippi while also being educational and fun.

From the Brain Climber to the Emotional Toolbox, children and their families will be able to use this gallery to practice healthy habits through making good choices. This gallery will be divided into sections devoted to different aspects of one’s overall health through a neurological lens. Children will be able to explore the best ways to care for our brains, how proper nutrition fuels our brains, and how physical fitness powers our neurons. Within the gallery, MCM will also host educational programs and activities to teach healthy habits that families can take with them when they leave the museum.

MCM-Meridian is committed to providing the tools for children and families in East Mississippi to make good health choices and understand their brains from the inside out!
As the signature sponsor of the Healthy Fun! gallery in Jackson, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi has been a longtime supporter of fun health and nutrition education for children and their families at MCM. This year, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation pledged to support MCM-Meridian as the signature sponsor of the My Best Me health gallery. “The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is proud to extend its support to the expansion of the Mississippi Children’s Museum to build its second location in Meridian,” said Sheila Grogan, Executive Director of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. “This partnership will help to support our collective efforts to increase health literacy among our children and build the next generation of healthy Mississippians.”

Its ongoing support of MCM’s statewide health initiatives is one example of how Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is helping to build a healthy Mississippi while celebrating its children and families.
MCM fondly remembers staff member, Mr. Jimmy Patterson, or ‘Mr. Jimmy,’ who passed away unexpectedly on November 24, 2018. He was an important member of our facilities and maintenance department and a father figure to many at the museum, including Visitor Assistants as well as the actual father of Chris Jenkins, MCM’s Assistant Director of Facilities.

His love of children made coming to work something he looked forward to every day. “Sometimes he would be feeling down but when he came to work, he felt so much better! The smiles of the children kept him going.”

Spending time getting to know his co-workers came naturally to him as he always checked on them. Visitor Assistant, Katie Eubanks, shared “Mr. Jimmy was always caring for all of us and was a very kind man. He told us he thought of us as his grandchildren.” The entire MCM family will miss him greatly!

Amberly Collins, Family Literacy Dinners Chair and MCM Partners member, was integral to the success of Planting the Seeds to Read, a seven-week family literacy program where families were served a healthy dinner before participating in literacy activities. Caregivers were also given educational resources on different issues facing children and families.

In her volunteer role for this program, Collins organized sponsors for dinner each week, as well as prepared the theme. ‘One of the things that I found so sweet about this program was that all of the sponsors were able to bring their families and serve dinner together,’ Collins says of the impact this program had on not just the families participating, but on the sponsors and volunteers as well. ‘They got so much more out of it than they donated.’

Dinners were an important part of Planting the Seeds to Read. Sponsors provided nutritious food, which not only helped children study better, but made the program more appealing. “I think sometimes the children might have been intimidated to come. We worked hard to make it more about a fun night with their family, by having a theme and activities to do throughout the museum. Combined with a delicious meal, it makes it more of an event to come to, instead of just helping them on their schoolwork,” Collins explained.

The Riley Foundation was established in 1998 and follows the legacy and vision of Dr. Franklin Gail Riley to improve Meridian and Lauderdale County, MS by supporting numerous programs and projects in the area. The Riley Foundation is a generous supporter of MCM-Meridian and will allow the museum to better serve the children and families of East Mississippi.

“We believe all children should have the opportunity to learn, play, and grow,” Marty Davidson, Chairman, CEO, and Treasurer of The Riley Foundation, explains. “The Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian will help encourage children from all backgrounds to learn while playing and exploring the galleries that help spark their imagination and creativity.”

MCM-Meridian is dedicated to providing access to quality education and play to all children, and it is through the support of individuals, business, and foundations like The Riley Foundation that it will be able to do so.
MCM MEMBERS | THE MOORE FAMILY

Stephanie and Clark Moore, along with their children Rigel, Alia, and Lyra, have been MCM members for five years, and are still discovering new ways to use the museum as one of Mississippi’s most exciting classrooms. From learning geography on our globe, anatomy in the Gastro Climber, or incorporating the arts in their education in Outside the Lines; the Moore family uses the museum as an interactive textbook for their homeschooled children. They explain the museum is a great place to support lessons from home, and being members makes it convenient to come to the museum for hands-on learning or just a quick break from schoolwork.

Each of their children have a favorite space in the museum. For Alia, 3, it’s the crop-duster above the barn. Five-year-old Rigel’s favorite place is Outside the Lines or the Gastro Climber. “Rigel’s favorite subject is anatomy, so he loves to talk about where he is in the digestive system,” Stephanie comments. Infant daughter Lyra is still deciding where her favorite place in the museum is!

“We love being able to swing in when we have a few minutes, or we can make a day of it,” Stephanie says. “Our membership doesn’t dictate when is a good time and how long we need to be here. We come and go often. We are notorious for being welcomed at 4:00 or 4:30 because sometimes we just need a few minutes of play time.”

MCM MERIDIAN DONORS & VOLUNTEERS | STEPHANIE WRIGHT & OTIS GOWDY

As members of the Meridian community, Stephanie Wright and Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr. are both passionate about Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian (MCM-Meridian). Because of their desire to provide fun and educational experiences for the children of East Mississippi, they are active participants in the project as both donors and volunteers.

“Communities thrive when health and wellness are a priority. MCM-Meridian can be the vital connection between health and learning. Healthy children are more likely to experience better learning outcomes,” Stephanie Wright, community partner and children’s advocate, explains. “As community members, we are obligated to invest in opportunities that promote and support healthy learners. Our future depends on it!”

Dr. Otis Gowdy, a nephrologist in Meridian, adds, “Our children are vital to our community and our society. Supporting MCM-Meridian is a great opportunity to instill the importance of health and nutrition in our children, and I am excited to be a part of this project!”

MCM SUPPORTER | SARA HART FELLOWS

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Sara Hart Fellows, is committed to helping her local community. Through her past experience as MCM’s Volunteer Coordinator, service projects with the Junior League of Jackson, and her consistent membership in MCM Partners, Fellows has long been a strong supporter of MCM.

“It’s no secret that MCM holds a near and dear place in my heart for many reasons,” says Fellows. “Mississippi is a small state, and as we all know too well, our resources often correlate with such a reality. However, the work that MCM does throughout Mississippi is humbling to observe for countless reasons, but mainly for how it brings communities together.”

Fellows currently works as the Community Relations Coordinator at the Center for the Advancement of Youth (CAY). At CAY, Fellows has spearheaded the Play. Eat. Learn. program, a free learning series open to the community bringing experts in childhood development and health to MCM to educate parents, caregivers, educators, and community members about important issues facing children.

Fellows says of her involvement with MCM’s programs: “I appreciate how MCM is able to facilitate educational programs, not only for our state’s children, but also for parents, educators and community members alike. MCM fosters the spirit of giving back in all that it does, and that’s one of the many reasons it is truly a gift to be able to play a small, small part in the work that they do.”
ANNUAL DONORS

Contributors to the Mississippi Children’s Museum from June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

* denotes a Build.Play.Grow. donation

When you wish to recognize your support, please contact us at donate@mcm.org.

$25,000+

Maggie and Lee Lampert
CFS/Grady Dealers
FedEx
Getrude C. Ford Foundation
Mississippi Farm Bureau Foundation
Peco/One Bank
St. Dominic Health Services, Inc.
Tennova
W. Kellogg Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999

Karen and Charles Bush
Frieda and Joe Lauderdale
Ashley and Hu Miao
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Atmos Energy
BankSouth
Barnsdale Reading Institute
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi
Clyde & Gene Smith
Community Foundation For Mississippi
Feld Col-Operative Association, Inc.
Henry and Martha Hederman
Charitable Foundation
Mississippi Humanities Council, Inc.
Rental Bank
Sandersons, Inc.
Silby and Richard McFerron Foundation
Telles Foundation
The Clarion Ledger
The Map Family Foundation
Toyota Metro North America, Inc.
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Visit Jackson
Wells Fargo Bank

$5,000 - $9,999

Anonymous
Betty and Martin F. Jue
Canadian National Railway Company
Charity W. Strange Group
Eaton Aerospace Group
Enterprising, Inc.
ERCONG
Fountain Family Foundation
Fresh Cut Catering & Floral*
Garnett Foundation
Hederman Brothers*
Jackson Free Press/Boom Jackson
Jackson Heart Foundation
Jackson Junior League of Greater Jackson
Jackson VanDevener Family Foundation
War Bower/Allchin Architecture

$250 - $499

Melanie and Jesse Burks
Margaret Cupples
Govy DeHart
Tob and Hadid Hughes
Dana Rene
Betty Medya
Benson Design
BkD, LLP
Butler Snow
Century Club Charities, Inc.
EastGroup Properties
Eat Drink Mississippi Magazine
Janes Writer
Kenda Scott
Mississippi Arts Commission
Mississippi Forestry Association
Nivel’s Express Cafe
Sycamore Jackson, LLC
The Radio People of Jackson*
The Scout Guide Jackson*
U.S. Foods*
Wells-Bing Magazine of MS, LLC

$1,000 - $2,499

Anonymous
Deborah and Stanley Allen
Dana and Jim Barlaskin
Juan and Tom Bertunar
Alvin and E. Blanchard
Danna and Clark Brice

Russell Morison
Betsey and Willy Mosby
Allan and Jack G. Mustard*
Andy and Joe Nosel
Amanda and Scott Overly
Babs and Ben
Swaze and W. Percottet
Beth and Charlie Poling
Kim and Terry Porter
Mary and Alex Purvis
Mitch and Mike
Morgan and Aaron Samuels
Jan and Andrew Towner
Allie and David Walker, III
Libba Wilkes
Noel Warnock
Molly and Ryan
Aura Avenue*
Georgia Blue*
Irene Mans
Jackie Newell Foundation
Key Constructors, LLC
KTB Wealth Partners, LLC
Miss. Wind & Water
Oxford Theatre Gallery*
RI International
The Country Club of Jackson*
Soul South*

$100 - $499

Suzannah and Cameron S. Albion
Meredith and Ben Aldridge
Jordan and Clark Beck
Austin and Allison Benton
Susan and Paul Blake
Elizabeth and Harold Boone
Susan and Allan Branson
Lauren and Mauree Bresler
Jay and Deanne Carnevale
Heather and Blake Carroll
Olivia and Champa Christensen
Amanda and Troy Cracow
Susan and Drew Clefret
Bette and Wade Creekmore
Francis and Justin Coft
Lisa and Sean Dulan
Bess and Wesley Dousen
and Frank Duke
Julia and Austin Ellis
Susan and Dan Everard
Sarah and Gordon Finch
Cindy and Larry Field
Susan and John W. Gardner, II
Mary and Kevin Gay
Leigh and Andrew Grady
Bettie and James E. Groves, Jr.
Lindsey and Jonathan Hellman
Abby and Ben Lindsey
Jim and Linda Lindsey
Alyson and Bryan Bernard Jones,
IV
Linda and Mark Jordan
Barry and Rachel
Kim and Terry
Libby and Ted M., II
Beverly and Matthew Murray
Melanie and John Louderdale
Carl and Richard Lewis
Courtney and Rob Lake
Marc and Clark Love
Jacob Malatesta
Janice and Steven Maloney
Kinya and Michael Mann
Bette and Dolan Mason
Amanda and Martin Mcgowan
Shane and Jackie Meck
Cheryl and Dennis Miller
Ella Miller
Shen and Clift Moody
Bobby Morgan
Leah and James E. Morton
Leigh and Ruby Mosby
Phns and Kent Neuser
Gwen and Steven Oat
Genny and Logan Phillips
Kathryn and Andy Presser
Katherine and Robert Purckett
Lori Quatrini
Abby and Bradley Reamer
Jeanne and Vernon Sandhu
Carlee M. Scobin
Charlotte and Sarah Speak
Richard Sammis
Caroline and Kirk Sres
Brett and Steve Smith
June and Harper Stone
Ashley Stubbins
Allan and David Thomas
Cynthia Till
India and Alan Torrey
Chelse and Stephen Ury
Mary Ellen and Kurtis Versteeg
Meredith and William VanDevender
Malinda and Brandon White
Sara and Brenda White
Jane Clare and Mason Williams
Ashley and Marion Neal
Sarah and Russell Young
Christine and Scott Zavich
BankFirst Financial Services
Brooks Collection
Cowan & Associates, PLLC
Dana Ingom Design
Drew Hotel Group
Emmy Ridgeland
Harmon Custom Furniture
Home, LLP
Hull Portraits
Lori Briggs Markets Real Estate
Magikat Metals, Inc.
Mike Fulmer
Mississippi Automobile
Dealers Association
Mississippi Museum
Mississippi Party Bus
M.T. Mystery
Pal Avenue
Parkway Quick Lube & Tune
Payne Ready
Porter Law Firm, P.A.
Seaford Revoloution
Summerhouse
The Goldbug Group
The Hull Foundation
Treehouse Boutique
Two Rivers
Treadlocal Charitable Fund
for the Community Foundation
for Mississippi
St. Siskiyou

Anonymous
Sue and Mark
Camille Allen
Jan and John Allston
Edwards and Company
Mike Anye
Barbara Austin
Linda Baggott
Tony Bahas
Kate Barbelf
Gailinda and Pat Benatar
Eric Beckman
Brian Beckham
Annie Bell
Karen and Barry Benh
Jenny Berghill
Mary Weisinger Beemar
Deanna and Askle Blackledge
Robert Blackblader
Joe Blittern
Allan Bodner
Grace and John O. Boll
Julia Bradley
Belinda Brakshaw
Teresa Brown
Meghan Brock
Nathan Buck
Gerard Buthmann
Rebecca and Jason Butler
Leigh and William Campbell
Justin Cambell
Kelley Carroll
Margie Chapman
Stacy Cheyenne
Ellen and James H. Clayton
Dawn and Dave Clements
Allie Crane
Sara Coyt
Mary Margaret Coakley
Franco and Sam Colen
Gail and Jon Col
Skyler Colman
Zach Callan
Jennifer and Brian Cooper
Abby Cronnig
Morgan Cox
Patrick Craig
Genny Creekmore
Jim Crosby
Margaret H. Cruse
Laura Paige Cummings
Kitty A. Dancin
Richard Dankin
Barbara Day
Sunny and Nadeem Daen
Sarah Duff
Katie and Brie Davis
Desta and Thomas Draught
Katy Dugel
Ashley Druger
Carley Dunbar
Cindy and David Dunbar
Kelly and Andrew B. Edwards
Jennifer and Matt Elsheiber
Danna R. Ellis
Alessia Engel
Lara Evans
Patrick Ewman
Edward R. Exum
Leslie Exum
Kelley Fenelon
Amy and Anthony Fenberg
Gardner Fletcher
Laurie Forester
Elizabeth Fox
Kitty and Louis Fuller
Brad Gaul
Stephanie and Mark Gargina
John Gerty
Gwendolyn Gerhardt
Kathy Gilbreath
Cullen T. Gibe
Beth and Collier Graham
Ashley and Robert Glass
Bernetta and George Grayson
Julie and Ken Graham
Margie and Greg Griffin
Kim Griffin
Sarah and Collby Guillory
Muffie and Tom Haley
Dane Holmike
Alicia and Seth Hall
John O. Hamilton, Jr.
Peggy and David Hamilton
Elena and William Harris, III
Rhoda Hays
Mark and Debbie Haskins
Joanna Hearle
Abigail B. Henderson
Jen and Gary Herring
Lana Hill
John and Clayton Hilton
Kathy Hines
Sarah Hollis
Brittany Holman
Jenny Cox Holam
Emily B. Huggins
Meg Hurtle
William Jackson
William Jackson
Lisa and Benjamin Jefferys
Joyce and Jefferys
Eric S. John
Juliettes
Katie Jones
Hannah K. Johnson
Ashley and Brian Johnson
Tamara and Robert Johnson
Clair Johnston
Elsa and John Johnston
Susan Jandofri
Sarah and Brandon Jones
Steven Jordan
Dana and Jenny Jono
Katey and Logan Jon
Emily C. Kiker
Allie and Seth Krohn
Kara Kruze
Jeremy LeMaire
Julie Leavengood
Morgan Leavelle
Valerie and Scott Linn
Deborah D. Litz
Blythe and Tim Loflar
Irene and Lawrence Long
Paula and Mac Long
William Lott
Matthew Luze
Joseph H. Lutz
Stephanie and Shannon Mangalik
Kimberly Marqau
Katherine Markey
Brooke and John P. Martin
Nancy and John May
Anna Mary Mcintyre
Brandy McAllister
Kelly and Bill McAlister
Jane Marie and John McDonald, Jr.
Ryan McGahey
Rabe McReele
Rebecca McReeler
Barbara Mclauaglin
Jordan Mclathew
Michelle Mckinzie
Quentin Bell
Lauren and Lindsay McLemore
Janet D. McCrory
Mary and Mike Mckay
Skylee Merkes

Coming this summer, visitors can explore Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood: A Grr-ifc Exhibit with Daniel Tiger and friends! In this visiting exhibit, created by Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh in partnership with The Fred Rogers Company, children and their families can step into the world of this beloved PBS program to play, sing, and pretend while also learning about empathy, gratitude, sharing, and diversity.

Guided by Daniel Tiger and his neighbors, discover this magical world from the Clock Factory, where children can build clocks using numbers, gears, and clock hands, to the Music Shop, where children can express themselves by creating their own music or singing along to songs from the show. Children and their families are also invited to the Imagination Stage to transform into their favorite neighbor through acting, costumes, and masks as well as the Movable Character Mural to interact with their favorite characters. Be sure to stop by the Thank You Tree to thank the special people in your life.

Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood: A Grr-ifc Exhibit is locally sponsored by Trustmark and Barksdale Reading Institute and will be at MCM Saturday, May 25, 2019 through Sunday, September 8, 2019. Be sure to stop by the Neighborhood!

DID YOU KNOW?
Sleep is vital to your physical and emotional health.
Did you know regular exercise and a well balanced diet can help you sleep better? A full night’s sleep will ensure you are ready for anything the day brings!

WORD SCRAMBLE!
Can you unscramble the following words?
ETHHAL __________
XECISEER __________
LNESSLWE __________
RTUFI __________
BGETLEVEA

EAT THE RAINBOW! Eat at least one fruit or vegetable from each color everyday!

SEEK & FIND
Can you find the items below? Search the Playbook and write the page numbers in the blanks.

Can you complete the pattern?
# MCM Spring 2019 Calendar

Please note that these dates and events are subject to change. Visit mschildrensmuseum.org for an up-to-date schedule.

### FEB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ignite the Night: Hamptons Holiday</td>
<td>(ticketed event) 7:00 - 11:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Visiting Artist: Teresa Haygood</td>
<td>Workshops @ 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Members-Only Pancake Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Magic Monday</td>
<td>Museum open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Play, Eat, Learn. A Family Learning Series</td>
<td>6:00 - 7:15 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr. Seuss Silly Birthday Celebration</td>
<td>10:00 am - 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Visiting Artist: Doris Jones</td>
<td>Workshops @ 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nasa Day</td>
<td>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Magic Monday</td>
<td>Museum open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### APR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Visiting Artist: Tempestt Gilmour</td>
<td>Workshops @ 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Bunnies &amp; Butterflies</td>
<td>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Magic Monday</td>
<td>Museum open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Harry Potter Day</td>
<td>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Play, Eat, Learn. A Family Learning Series</td>
<td>6:00 - 7:15 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Visiting Artist: Malaika Quarterman</td>
<td>Workshops @ 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Daniel Tiger Members-Only Preview Party</td>
<td>5:30 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Splash Pad Opens!</td>
<td>Open daily through Labor day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood: A Grrific Exhibit Opens May 25!

**Mississippi Children’s Museum**

www.mschildrensmuseum.org • 601.981.5469

---

A signature project of the Junior League of Jackson
This project is partially funded through a grant by Visit Jackson.