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**Mississippi Children's Museum Included in Association of Children's Museums  
'Thank You' to The Junior League**

***Junior League of Jackson provided critical support to key Jackson institution***

JACKSON, MS, 2017 – When the [Association of Children's Museums](#) recently selected [The Junior League](#) as the recipient of the 2017 [ACM Great Friend to Kids Award](#), which honors those who have made significant contributions to strengthen education and advance the interests of children, Mississippi Children's Museum was one of the more than 50 institutions around the U.S. and the world that got their start with help from a Junior League.

“Junior Leagues began investing in children's museums as core community assets after the end of World War II and up through the '80s and '90s as the importance of what we now call STEM learning in our children's education became clearer and clearer,” said Susan Danish, Executive Director of The Association of Junior Leagues International. “Now, in communities like Jackson, those investments continue to pay off with visits and classes experienced by many thousands of children every year.”

Heidi Noel, President of the Junior League of Jackson, added, “We are so grateful for the opportunity we were given to play an integral role in bringing this amazing museum to the children of Mississippi. A focus of the mission of the Junior League of Jackson is to improve the lives of the children in our community and the Mississippi Children's Museum strives to do that every day.”

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is committed to providing children innovative learning experiences that tap their curiosity and creativity; reaching diverse populations throughout the state; developing partnerships that empower children and those who care for them; and being responsible stewards of our resources. As the largest children's museum in the state, MCM serves as an educational hub for children, families, and teachers, offering a unique space for quality interactions. MCM is committed to remaining accessible to Mississippi's broad and primarily economically disadvantaged population by keeping ticket prices affordable, providing scholarships for field trips, and offering programs free of charge to all visitors. Recently, MCM has added a robust outreach program, wherein museum staff are able to reach outside our walls and impact children unable to regularly visit. The museum depends on the community's generous support to continue to be able to provide these unique and inspiring educational resources. MCM President & CEO Susan Garrard notes, “The Mississippi Children's Museum was formed through our community's recognition of the need for an

engaging space for children and families of our state. Since then, we have constantly sought out the guidance, vision and leadership from community members as we enhance and expand MCM's offerings and capacity."

#### **About Junior League of Jackson**

The Junior League of Jackson supports 30 community projects throughout the Jackson Metro area. Each year, JLJ volunteers contribute more than 50,000 volunteer hours towards community and fund development projects. For more information, visit our website at [www.jljackson.org](http://www.jljackson.org).

#### **About the Mississippi Children's Museum**

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge, and learning in all children. MCM is dedicated to inspiring Mississippi's children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. The museum features 40,000 square feet of exhibit space designed around five primary initiatives: Literacy, STEM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi History. The museum's exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. To learn more about MCM visit [www.mschildrensmuseum.org](http://www.mschildrensmuseum.org).

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