



Mississippi Children's Museum Receives Support for Launch into Learning Afterschool Program

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MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Jackson, MS – The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) receives support from the R.V. Powers and Robert E. Lake Foundations, as the museum prepares for the fourth year of continuing the innovative afterschool program, Launch into Learning.

The Launch into Learning program serves over 100 students from Jackson Public Schools and 30 students from Meridian Public Schools, with activities hosted at both MCM locations in Jackson and Meridian. Over 180 days, students engage in a rich curriculum that includes art, literacy, coding, and robotics, designed to enhance their in-school learning and overall educational experience. This program was established in response to a critical community need and has quickly gained statewide recognition, receiving praise from the Mississippi Afterschool Network within just four years of operation.

MCM's Launch into Learning program has received generous support from R.V. Powers and Robert E. Lake Foundations for the 2024-2025 school year. Their contributions are instrumental in ensuring the success and sustainability of this program.

"We are so grateful for the support from R.V. Powers and Robert E. Lake Foundations," said Emily Hoff, Executive Director at the Mississippi Children's Museum. "Through this partnership, MCM's afterschool program will be able to continue the important work in afterschool care and provide an enriching experience through diverse programming and mentorship."

Research consistently demonstrates that high-quality afterschool programs have a positive impact on students' educational outcomes, school attendance, and social and emotional learning. Investing in enriching afterschool programs like MCM's Launch into Learning is crucial for students' future success.

Recent end-of-year I-Ready assessments conducted by Mississippi State University's National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center, along with separate assessments by Jackson Public Schools, revealed significant improvements in students' testing scores across both Meridian and Jackson afterschool programs. In Meridian, students experienced an average increase of 11.5 points in reading and 16.4 points in math from the beginning to the end of the year. In Jackson, students saw an impressive 29.6 point increase in reading scores over the same period.

For more information about the Launch into Learning program and other initiatives at the Mississippi Children's Museum, please visit mschildrensmuseum.org.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. MCM's two award-winning museums in Jackson and Meridian collectively offer over 100,000-square feet of exhibits and educational programming designed around five primary initiatives, Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. MCM offers exceptional resources for children, families, and educators through MCM at Home virtual programming, traveling exhibits and programs, community outreach, *Launch into Learning* afterschool program, professional development for educators, and *Talk from the Start*, an initiative for parents and caregivers to promote language development in children from birth to five years old.

MCM is honored to have received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the Mississippi Tourism Association Governor's Award for Travel Attraction of the Year, and USA Today's '10Best Travel Award for Best Children's Museum. To learn more about MCM visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org.

About the R.V. Powers Foundation and Robert E. Lake Foundation

The R.V. Powers Foundation and Robert E Lake Foundation were created with the sole intention of providing essential support to children in Jackson Mississippi. Through strategic grants, the foundations empower organizations that directly align with the vision and values of the foundations. By collaborating with like-minded partners, the foundations aim to create lasting impact and foster positive change by providing educational opportunities to children in Jackson.

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