



The Mississippi Children's Museum Unveils Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine™ Made Possible by Atmos Energy

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MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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(Jackson, Miss.) -- The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is proud to announce the unveiling of an innovative new addition: Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine™, made possible through the generous support of Atmos Energy. This unique machine is designed to ignite a passion for reading in children by turning literacy into a fun and rewarding experience.

Unlike traditional vending machines that offer snacks or toys, Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine™ provides something far more meaningful: books. This machine dispenses brand-new books that children can earn through positive behavior and program participation. Museum guests can earn Inchy's Coins by attending weekly literacy-based programs: ABC Come Play with Me, Rocky's Book Club, and Read with Me. Each time guests attend one of these programs, they will receive a sticker on their Book Club Card, putting them one step closer to earning an Inchy's Coin! These special tokens can be used to select a book from the machine, acting as a reward for their dedication and program attendance.

"At the Mississippi Children's Museum, we believe every child's imagination can take flight through the power of a good book," said Monique Ealey, Director of Education and Experiences at the Mississippi Children's Museum. "Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine transforms the simple act of choosing a book into a magical moment that builds excitement, curiosity, and a lifelong love of reading.

Each book a child takes home not only expands their personal library, but also strengthens the habit of reading together as a family — one of the most meaningful ways to learn, bond, and dream. Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine beautifully complements our literacy-based programs by connecting learning with joyful rewards. When children participate in museum reading activities and earn the opportunity to select their own book, it reinforces positive reading habits and celebrates their commitment to learning in a fun, tangible way."

The vending machine will be a permanent fixture at MCM, offering children the chance to earn and choose their own books throughout the year. This experience aligns with the museum's core literacy initiative, which is central to our goal of empowering children through reading and learning.

"The Mississippi Children's Museum has been an excellent partner for Atmos Energy for over 15 years," said Matt Davidson, President of the Mississippi Division of Atmos Energy. "We are committed to investing in the communities we serve, and a significant area of focus is third-grade literacy. The addition of the book

vending machine aligns perfectly with our partnership with the museum and serves as a wonderful way to encourage a love for reading.”

Visitors to the museum are invited to explore the new vending machine, take part in our enriching literacy programs, and help spread the joy of reading — one book at a time.

In conjunction with this contribution to the museum, Atmos Energy has generously donated to the LIFT capital campaign, underscoring its commitment to expanding literacy and learning opportunities for Mississippi’s children. Atmos Energy’s gift is one of the first in this inspirational project that will further support the construction of a 20,000-square foot addition designed to empower students and educators through innovative resources and programs. Through this investment, Atmos Energy is helping the Mississippi Children’s Museum advance its mission to strengthen literacy, inspire lifelong learning, and cultivate a strong, productive workforce for Mississippi’s future.

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* and *Reach Out and Read*, initiatives 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. Learn more: www.mschildrensmuseum.org

About Atmos Energy

Atmos Energy Corporation, a natural gas-only distributor, is an S&P 500 company headquartered in Dallas. We safely deliver reliable, affordable, efficient and abundant natural gas to more than 3 million distribution customers in over 1,400 communities across eight states located primarily in the South. As part of our vision to be the safest provider of natural gas services, we are modernizing our business and infrastructure while continuing to invest in safety, innovation, environmental sustainability and our communities. Atmos Energy manages proprietary pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas. Find us online at www.atmosenergy.com, [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Global Vending Group, Inc.

For over 20 years, Global Vending Group Inc. has been a world leader in innovative vending solutions, including the pioneering Inchy the Bookworm vending machines. With more than 9,000 partnerships with schools and institutions across the United States and Canada, we proudly distribute over 12.6 million books annually, positively impacting the lives of over three million students. Our mission is to promote literacy and foster a love for reading through creative and engaging vending solutions. Discover more about our groundbreaking work at BookVending.com and GlobalVendingGroup.com.