

## ECM for All Program

The cost of museum admission can be a barrier for many families. Edwardsville Children's Museum is a member of Museums for All, a nationally branded access program that encourages individuals of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits.

Thanks to the generosity of our presenting sponsor, GCS Credit Union, and the Friends of ECM for All sponsors, ECM is proud to offer free admission to visitors presenting their EBT card and field trip scholarships to qualifying preschool programs and schools.

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# 2022 Annual Report

## We're Looking Good!

This year, our Board of Directors raised the money to design and build a brand new website! We also received a marketing grant from the City of Edwardsville that allowed us to produce beautiful videos to market and promote our amazing museum.



Check out our new website



Welcome to the museum video



**In 2022, ECM received its largest donation in history from Harry & Carol Windland. Read more about their tremendous gift in this report.**

[edwcm.org](http://edwcm.org)



# Expanding Beyond Our Community

**In 2022, we took some big steps to make a broader impact for children and families in our community and beyond!**

## Into The Arctic Exhibit Rental

We have successfully launched a new traveling exhibit program, renting our seasonal exhibits to other organizations. This year we rented our Into the Arctic exhibit, sponsored by Cardinal Buick GMC, to the Quincy Children's Museum. Not only are we sharing these joyful learning experiences with families in other communities, we are also adding ways to increase our revenue through the rental fees.



## Citizen Science Project

Funded by Phillips 66, the Micro Forest Citizen Science Project will let local middle schoolers get their hands dirty, performing research on the impact the Micro Forest has on our local biodiversity. The goals of this project are two-fold: to help middle-schoolers see themselves as scientists and to measure the impact the Micro Forest has on local wildlife. Our Micro Forest is located at 138 Park Drive in Edwardsville if you want to check it out.



## Pollinator Pathway Project

Did you know that native plantings need to be close together to provide food sources for pollinators as they move through the area? The more native plant gardens we have in our neighborhoods, the sooner we can restore our natural habitats. That's why in 2022, we worked so hard to make a positive impact on our local environment through the expansion of our Pollinator Pathway.

Our three initial pollinator gardens are at the Edwardsville Children's Museum, The ECM Micro Forest, and Liberty Middle School (thank you Board Member, Dr. Allen Duncan)!

In October, we hosted a community-wide event, educating people on the importance of honey bees and other pollinators, providing seed packets with instructions on how to grow their own pollinator gardens, and spreading the love for our local pollinators all over the town.



## Check Out What's New!

If you haven't been to the museum lately, there is so much new to see and do! We have added new exhibits and refreshed and expanded older ones. The museum is constantly evolving and improving, thanks to partnerships with our community members like you.

## Hawthorne Animal Hospital

We now have a grooming station and examination table in our redesigned upstairs space! Come check it out!

## Imagination Playground & Butterfly Garden

Out back by the Discovery Garden, kids use their imaginations to build anything they want with blocks as big as they are! Complete with playground quality rubber flooring for safety, the Imagination Playground was a gift from Mike Fries to his wife, Kristen, in honor of her years of dedication to the Museum.

## All Aboard! Train Table

Tom Stephenson designed and built a unique model train layout for ECM that was displayed at the National Train Show at the Gateway Center in August. He donated the table to ECM and it has been well-loved in its home at the Nickel Plate Station. A portion of the table is also set up for play at the main museum!



## Thank You Harry & Carol Windland

In 2022, ECM received its largest donation in history from Harry & Carol Windland. They donated to our Museum because they believe in what we're doing, support our mission and environmental impact, and continue to educate the next generation.

Their extremely generous \$50,000 donation will be used to add new learning experiences, such as the Windland Treehouse exhibit and the Windland Education Center at the Nickel Plate Station.

