LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The Lewisburg Children’s Museum is passionate about learning through play and is grateful for the community that supports that passion. We appreciate every contribution big or small. Our region continues to contribute to the LCM through visits, donations, partnerships, program offerings, and volunteer hours. As a nonprofit, the LCM depends on community support and looking back on our first year of operations, we are so thankful for it.

Community contributions enable us to expand our exhibits, increase our programming, and ensure we are a welcoming, safe, and vibrant learning community for all children. In 2018, we welcomed over 30,000 guests to our museum. With the help of community partners, we opened new exhibits including Electricity, Meteors to Mars, Gas n’ Go, Constellation Infinity Mirrors, and the Mission Control room. Thank you to all of the donors and volunteers who helped bring these exhibits to life! We also expanded our programming to add Sunday and Pop! activities in addition to our regular Saturday programming. Through accessibility initiatives like “Museums for All” and “Count me In” we offered free and reduced admission to approximately 1,400 visitors. We hope to see that number grow in 2019!

The LCM had many noteworthy achievements in 2018 that we are pleased to detail in this year’s annual report. In the coming year, we will continue to spread our message about the power of learning through play both at LCM and in the community. We are so thankful for all of the individuals and organizations who continue to support our work. Thank you for being a part of the LCM family and supporting our love of PLAY!

Marian Marchiori

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Looking back on 2018, there is so much to be thankful for; we continue to benefit from the overwhelming generosity of donors and sponsors from throughout our region and beyond, our close partnerships with local organizations, our amazing staff and educational program leaders, and all of the many volunteers who have helped us best serve this community.

During our first full year of operation we experienced all the seasons and rhythms of Lewisburg and the Greater Susquehanna Valley. From Ice Fest, Arts Fest, Chalk Fest to Late Night Shoppers, our signature New Year’s Eve event, and everything in between, we welcomed visitors to celebrate, create, and learn with us. We got excited for each new educational program, every new exhibit opening.
Now that we are fully operational, our priority for 2019 is to provide greater low- or no-cost access to our museum and educational programs for those children in our community who would not otherwise be able to afford it. We feel that every child should have the opportunity to enjoy our exhibits and activities. I hope you will join us in support of the “Count Me In” fund that is designated explicitly for financial accessibility.

Looking ahead, our board and staff are committed to continuing to be a resource within our community. Three years ago when I first shared the idea to build a children’s museum, I remember saying that I wanted the museum to be the backdrop for many family photographs and memories. I love that I have had the chance to see some of these great photos. We are here for you on those cold, rainy (or snowy or icy) days, when everyone is getting cabin fever cooped up at home. We are here for you when you need a place to bring your visiting relatives the day after Thanksgiving. We are here for you if it’s time for hosting a family reunion, birthday party, or any celebration when you really want the kids to have a great time. We are here in service of families and this community.

Erin Jablonski

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Lewisburg Children’s Museum to bring hands-on, enriching educational experiences in a safe, accessible environment, to children in the central Susquehanna Valley. We are committed to providing opportunities for learning, imagination, and play.

OUR VISION

Our Vision for Lewisburg Children’s Museum is to be a model destination for engaged learning through high-quality exhibits, creative programming, and unique interactive experiences, all designed to inspire a diverse range of visitors.
OUR VALUES

"We are a museum for ALL."

We prioritize inclusivity and access to provide impactful, educational experiences through play for all children in a safe, interactive environment. We deliver inclusive, accessible, engaging experiences to all visitors regardless of their ability to pay and endeavor to provide access to families of all socioeconomic backgrounds throughout the region.

"We embrace our community."

We provide opportunities for community input; leverage local connections and strong partnerships with other organizations; promote community awareness and involvement; and always consider our stakeholder network. We provide informational resources for families, serving as a cultural campus and community hub.

"We provide high quality, innovative experiences."

We are committed to providing the highest quality experiences and maintaining an innovative approach to reinvention of exhibits and offerings. We maintain high standards for our educational, interactive exhibits (both static and timely, including rotating and prototypes). All of our experiences are continuously assessed and improved. We are attentive to the durability, appearance, and user interaction with all of our experiences.

"We make the best use of our resources."

In order to meet our goals, we must be exceptionally responsible and enterprising stewards of the entirety of our resources for the benefit of museum visitors. We acknowledge, with immense and sincere gratitude, every donation of time, money, or in-kind material provided to us that allows our organization to function and grow.
New Exhibits Mean New Ways to Play

**Meteors to Mars**
Our thrilling new Pneumatic Wall lets kids explore concepts of pressure and velocity as their meteors go zooming through the atmosphere. Exhibit fabricated by the Bucknell University’s (BU) Chemical Engineering Department.

**Gas 'n' Go**
The LCM’s highway has a pit stop! Children can cruise from exhibit to exhibit, filling up their cars at the Weis Gas’n’Go.

**Water Table**
Sponsored by Custom Container Solutions, the LCM’s water table brings a rush of excitement to children as they enter our outdoor courtyard space, sponsored by the Sholley Agency and Creative Plantscapes. This hands-on exhibit lets children splash, pump, and move the water’s flow.

**Electricity**
Sponsored by Citizen’s Electric, this new exhibit feature encourages children to use trial and error to connect circuits and light up our miniature street.

**Expanded Mission Control**
Houston, we have lift off! Check out the LCM’s Mission Control: launch a rocket, experience moon sand, and learn about PA astronauts. Sponsored by BU Lids for Kids, CSIU/TAI, SUN Area Technical Institute, and the Capatch Family.

**Constellation Infinity Mirrors**
To infinity! Thanks to contributions from Boy Scout Troop 538 and the Vigeant-Stumbris Family, children can experience the constellations in a new and exciting way-forever!

**Our Virtual Valley**
The Susquehanna Valley has never been more visual, or virtual! Sponsored by BU’s Computer Science Dept. and 7th Street Studio, Wood-Mode, Inc., and the Marchiori Family, this exhibit combines 3D software and sensory components. Watch the landscape change before your eyes.

**Discovery Pit**
Sponsored by the Union County Conservation District, children can tunnel through the soil to discover the world that lies beneath their feet, including the animals and insects that live there.
Growing Programs for Growing Minds

No school means more time to play! Summer 2018 was an opportunity for the LCM to reach children of all ages. The LCM offered summer mini-camps, including: 3D Art, Around the World in Five Days, Food Engineering, Full STEAM Ahead, Movement for Beginners, Music for Beginners, My First Art Camp, and Spanish for Beginners.

Many of these camps created the opportunity to share in unique community collaborations. For example, Around the World in Five Days let children grab their passports and explore countries around the globe. Area residents with special connections to these countries served as guest instructors, sharing the culture, geography, and beauty of these amazing places.

The summer wrapped up focusing on school readiness. Full STEAM Ahead helped young scholars, and their parents, prepare for the adventure of Kindergarten. Children explored subjects like reading, math, and writing through STEAM based activities.

Lewisburg Children’s Museum is pleased to partner with many community organizations and local universities to provide quality educational experiences for children of the Susquehanna Valley. These partnerships have included Bucknell University, the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority, the Degenstein Foundation, Susquehanna University Service Leaders, Union County 4-H, and many more.

In an effort to ensure that every child has the opportunity to visit LCM, 2018 launched a series of admission subsidies programs, including “Museums for All,” which allows EBT card holders to receive free admission for up to four people. In addition to “Museums for All,” LCM also offers admission subsidies through relationships with Blue Star Museums, Geisinger’s Nurse Family Partnership, Union County Children & Youth, and Snyder County Children and Youth. Contact LCM to learn more about supporting this important initiative.
BIG EVENTS, BIG FUN

Kid Olympics

Athletes of all ages gathered for this energy packed day of fun! Thank you to our sponsors Blue Heron Sports, Sweet Frog, and Rippon Family McDonald’s Restaurants.

First Birthday Celebration

Look who turned one! LCM hosted a big birthday party celebrating our one year anniversary. Face painting, balloons, and a magic show!

Munchkins & Pumpkins

Sponsored by Dries Orchard and Dunkin Donuts, this fall themed event was enjoyed by all! Costumed children enjoyed carnival themed games and yummy treats.

Third Annual New Year’s Eve Party

LCM hosted its third New Year’s Eve Party, London style. The night included crafts, dance party, delicious appetizers, and a special sing along with Mary Poppins and Cast from Christ Wesleyan Theater Productions. Special thanks to our sponsors La Primavera, That Kitchen Witch, and Weis Markets. Proceeds supported LCM’s accessibility initiatives.
By the Numbers

We welcomed more than...

29,000 Museum Visitors
2,100 Children through on and off site programming
295 Member Families
1,900 Field trip students
1,363 Free & Reduced Admissions

Museums for All    Geisinger Nurse Family Partnership    Snyder County Children and Youth
Union County Children & Youth

Financial Overview
During its first full year of operation, LCM was pleased to receive four substantial grant awards. These grants made it possible to extend admission to area school children and enhance our STEM curriculum.

The 1994 Charles B. Degenstein Foundation provided funds to bring Northumberland County children and their families to the Museum, subsidizing the costs of transportation, lunch, and admission. Through this grant, LCM welcomed over 400 students and their families from the Milton and Shikellamy school districts.

We were also awarded two unique National Informal STEM Education Network (NISE) 2018 Explore Science kits. NISE's Let's Do Chemistry kits are designed to increase interest, relevance, and feelings of self-efficacy about chemistry topics among public audiences. We were one of 250 kit recipients from around the country. In addition to the Let's Do Chemistry kits, LCM received "Earth and Space" kits, which include hands-on Earth and space science experiences that encourage connections to science, technology, and society.

To increase children's understanding of food sustainability, the Lindig Lewisburg Foundation is supporting the co-sponsored initiative between LCM and Union County 4H to develop the "Grow It, Eat It" program. This program is geared for a wide array of ages of Lewisburg youth, demonstrating how they can grow, cook, and understand the dietary nutrition of their food.
"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."

Fred Rogers

Making play the work of childhood truly is a community effort. Local businesses and active community members make Lewisburg Children’s Museum’s exciting new programs and initiatives possible.

Corporate Donors

Bimbo Bakery
Bucknell University:
  7th Street Makerspace Studio
  BU Bison Lids for Kids
  (Management 101 course)
  Chemical Engineering Department
  Computer Science Department
Boy Scout Troop 538
Bull Run Tap House
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit/TAI
Citizens Electric
Coles Hardware
Creative Plantscapes
Hometown Recycling
Medical Managers of Union County
Penn State Master Gardener Program
Purple Platypus
Resilite
Sholley Agency
Sun Area Technical Institute
Union County Conservation District
Weis Center for Performing Arts
Weis Markets
Wood-Mode, Inc.

Individual Donors

Erin Abunassar
Lisa Ayers
Mihai Banciu
Jeanne Bernt
Chris Boyatzis
Elizabeth Brown
Mary Connolly
Ralph Diodata
Suji Donnelly
Joshua Emery
Craig Fought
Karen Freeman
Sharon Garthwaite
DeOnne Gronlund
Linda Gulden
Abby Gulden-Luthi
Mary Beth Harris
Jill Heckler
Erin Jablonski
The Jusko Family
Paul J. Keller
Daria Keyser
Sarah Kline
Kelly Kolak
Adrienne Levin
Bonnie Lewis
Marian Marchori
Stacy Mastrolia
Brian McClintock
Miranda McGinnis
Diane Meixell
Leslie Mudge
Joseph Murray
Samantha Pearson
Courtney Remmey
Don Remmey
Todd Ross
Kathleen Schweiger
Jennifer Shabahang
Jean Shackelford
Keith Smalley
Marguerite Smith
Julia Stefen
Ying Tang
Leslie Temple
Michele Thornley
The Unzueta Family
Brian Utter
James Vaughn
Margot Vigeant
Thomas Vogel
Chanin Wendling
Kim Wheeler

Over 580 hours of community service and volunteer time was generously provided by individuals and groups.

Thank you!
Thank you to our members!

2018 Members

The Abney Family
The Adam/Blum Family
The Allison Family
The Altebrando Family
The Andretta Family
The Angstadt Family
The Arsenault Family
The Azhar Family
The Bachman Family
The Baker Family
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Thank you to our members!

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## Thank you to our members!

### 2018 Members

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Thank you to our members!

2018 Members

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The Vanaskie Family
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The White Family
The Wilburn Family
The Willey Family
The Brent Williams Family
The Kristin Williams Family
The Withee Family
The Zerby Family
2018 Board of Directors
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Courtney Remmey, Vice President
Corey Jusko, Secretary
Tracy Kohl, Treasurer
Brett Hoffmaster
Leslie Mudge
Ashley Papson
Jen Sullivan
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Kim Wheeler

Staff
Marian Marchiori, Operations Director
Kahla DeSmit, Managing Director
Lindsey Walter, Museum Manager

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Oceanna Brubaker
Patricia Case
Craig Fought
Tabitha Geise
Abby Gulden-Luthi
Mary Beth Harris
Jess Kinney
Chris Kisvarday
Kristy Kuhn
Stacy Mastrolia
Joe Murray
Sam Sabo
Nate Siegel
Lori Smolleck

Through generous donations to the Museum, we have been able to provide free and reduced admission to underserved families in our community. In 2019, we will continue to grow our Count Me In fund, which will include subsidies for admission, classes, and programming. Can we count you in to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our region? Contact us to learn how you can support this initiative.

Save the Date
Don't miss the LCM's upcoming 2019 events!

- Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 21)
- Ice Fest (Feb. 1-2)
- Engineering Week (Feb. 17-23)
- Arts Fest (Apr. 27)
- Chalk Fest (July)
- LCM Birthday Bash (Sept.)
- Wooly Worm/UnPAved (Oct. 12)
- National Chemistry Week (Oct. 23)
- Munchkins & Pumpkins (Oct. 26)
- Celebration of Light (Dec.)
- Annual Public Stakeholders Meeting (Dec. 17)
- New Year’s Eve Party (Dec. 31)