



Join the
PlayHouse
PlayGroup
and
HELP US
ENGAGE
ALL
CHILDREN
in the
serious work
of **PLAY.**



“People tend to forget that play is serious.”
-David Hockney, artist

YOU are invited to join the **PlayHouse PlayGroup**, an elite group of museum supporters who partner with us to **ensure that the PlayHouse is accessible to all children and families**, including low-income families, children with special needs, and visitors from all backgrounds.

As a founding member of the PlayHouse PlayGroup you will receive:

- A Premium Membership;
- Ten one-time passes to the PlayHouse, empowering you to become an ambassador for the museum and share the gift of play with your friends and family;
- Two free tickets to a PlayHouse workshop (Family, Kid, or Adult), offering you and your family new ways to play;
- Four free, one-time passes to the Peoria Zoo;
- A 15% discount in the Peoria STOREia, the PlayHouse gift shop;
- Your name listed on the PlayHouse Donor Panel for a full year; and
- The knowledge that your gift supports the PlayHouse in its commitment to welcoming ALL families to play.

Make a difference to the PlayHouse and to children in and around the area. Complete the enclosed form, and join the **PlayGroup** today!

Why should YOU be a part of the **PlayHouse PlayGroup**?



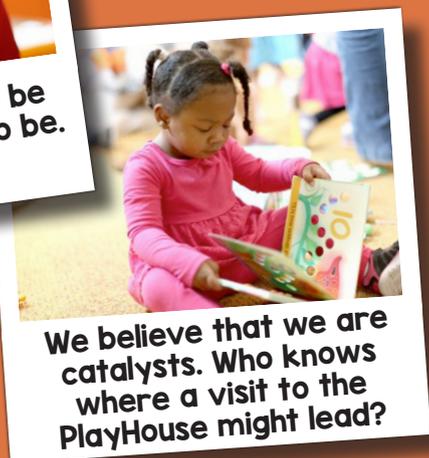
“Play... can be a vehicle for children to explore and enjoy their differences and similarities and to create, even for a brief time, a more just world.”

-Patricia G. Ramsey,
Educational
Psychologist



The Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum provides children with the tools and inspiration they need to be explorers and creators of the world. We do this in part through understanding, supporting, and promoting play in the fullest sense of the word, one that includes imagination and creativity.

THE PLAYHOUSE HAS FOUR CORE VALUES:



The PlayHouse has made it a priority to ensure that all children, including those with special needs, are welcomed. The museum offers noise-cancelling headphones for children sensitive to noise. If children are overstimulated and need a quiet place to sit, staff are encouraged to offer families access to an empty classroom.

Sarah has a sensory processing disorder, which made her first visit to the PlayHouse uncomfortable. But she loves to build, and found the magnetic marble run and Real Tools areas of the PlayHouse compelling enough to spend time there, despite the visual and auditory disturbance. In fact, Sarah loves these areas enough to visit the PlayHouse over and over again, honing her interest in engineering, and inspiring her to have an engineering-themed fifth birthday party.*



**names have been changed.*



“In play a child always behaves beyond his average age, above his daily behavior. In play it is as though he were a head taller than himself.”

-Lev Vygotsky,
Psychologist

In order to ensure that the PlayHouse is accessible to all children and families, we created the *Explorer Program*, which offers low-income families the opportunity to visit the PlayHouse for free.

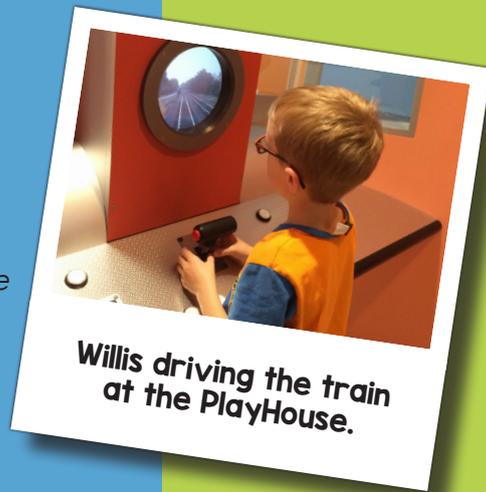
"Our families want to make sure that their kids have activities they can do out in the community. The PlayHouse Explorer Program is something that they can access, at a developmentally-friendly level, with no costs other than transportation - that's huge, we've never had anything like that in town."

-Nicole Livsey, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator, Peoria Housing Authority





Isaac became a PlayHouse Explorer Member last October. As a single parent, he brings his five-year-old son, Willis, to the museum at least once a week. Willis, who loves the trains, used to have a train table at home but it was destroyed in a flood a year ago. Isaac uses the PlayHouse train table as a space in which to teach Willis how to share with others. Isaac is one of many parents who tell us that learning to play collaboratively is one of the benefits of visiting the PlayHouse.



Willis driving the train at the PlayHouse.

“Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.”

-Kay Redfield Jamison,
Psychiatrist

Celebrate Peoria is a series dedicated to discovering and celebrating the diversity of Peoria and Central Illinois. At each event, the PlayHouse examines and celebrates one of the many cultures that make up the dynamic fabric of our community. In February 2016, Celebrate Peoria introduced visitors to Lunar New Year, celebrated in many countries in Asia. Other Celebrate Peoria events have celebrated the Hindu festival of Makar Sankranti, Kwanzaa, St. Patrick's Day and International Children's Book Day.



When the Jones family attended Celebrate Peoria in February, they did not know much about Asian culture, or the tradition of celebrating Lunar New Year. At the PlayHouse, they experienced traditions related to Lunar New Year from a variety of Asian countries. They tried on clothes and experimented with calligraphy from China. They tasted candies from Vietnam. And they made Korean "Jegichagi" toys to bring home. The family left the museum having learned a great deal, and – perhaps even more importantly – interested in learning more. Cara Jones told the PlayHouse, "My kids asked lots of questions and were exposed to a range of diversity that we don't often encounter in our normal day-to-day. I'm inspired to seek out more of Peoria's Asian culture."*



**names have been changed*

Thank you to the generous PlayHouse friends who are supporting our 2015-2016 programs and operations:

ORGANIZATIONS

\$25,000 - \$50,000

Anonymous
PNC

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Growing Smiles Pediatric
Dentistry

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Ameren Illinois
Caterpillar Foundation
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Hagerty CDI
Community Foundation of
Central Illinois
Hometown Community Banks
Junior League of Peoria
Just Kidz Dentistry
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\$100 - \$999

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Dr. Thembi Connor-Garcia
and Dr. Ramon Garcia
William Heidrich
Richard and Cheryl Miller
Kent and Bonnie Noble
Daniel and Bethany O'Brien
Robert and Radine Riffle
Kirsten Shields
William Wendle

"Play allows us to develop alternatives to violence and despair; it helps us learn perseverance and gain optimism."

-Stuart Brown MD,
Psychiatrist

List current as of June 2015 - May 2016

The Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum **does not receive any funding through taxes**; its income comes from a combination of earned and contributed income. The cost of operating the PlayHouse is approximately \$725,000 per year. Through admissions, memberships, our gift shop, programs, and rentals, we earn nearly \$500,000 per year. This means that in order to continue to offer innovative programs and exhibits, and further our larger vision of a community of young explorers and makers, **we need to raise \$230,000 from other sources in 2016.**



**Dishes for the
Farmhouse Kitchen:
\$15 per set**



**Kinetic Sand: \$1.65
per pound**

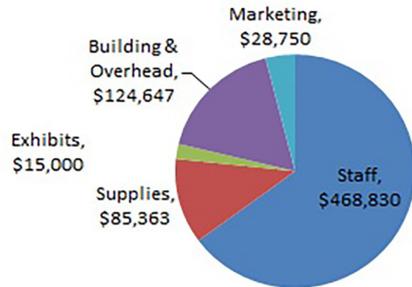


**Real Tools Supervision:
\$10 per hour**

PlayHouse income and costs in 2016

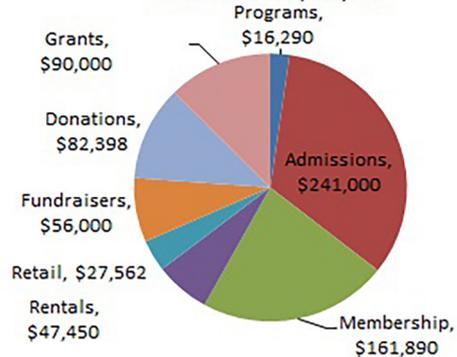
PlayHouse 2016 Operating Expenses

Total Expenses: \$722,590



PlayHouse 2016 Operating Income

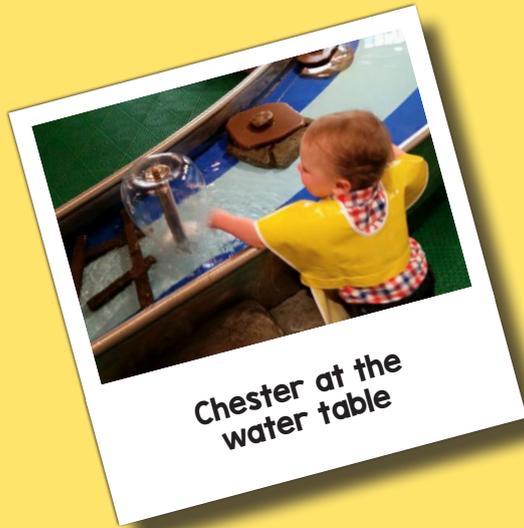
Total Income: \$722,590



“Play is training for the unexpected.”

-Marc Bekoff,
Biologist

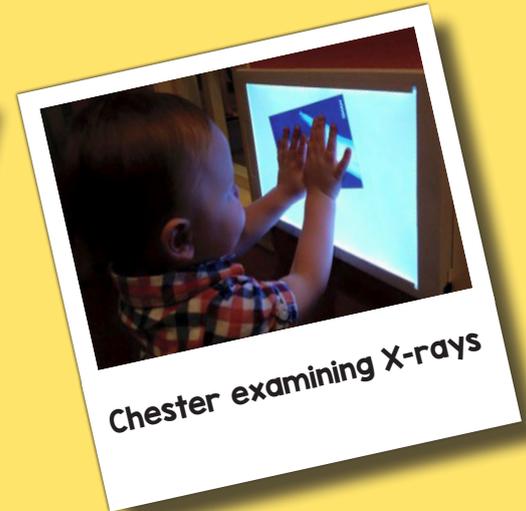




**Chester at the
water table**



**Chester on the
Family Farm**



Chester examining X-rays

When two-year old Chester visited the PlayHouse, he imagined himself as a farmer, like his father, an engineer, like his uncle, and a teacher, like his aunt. He drove a train like his great uncle, and learned about his uncle's work in fisheries as he splashed in the water table. As he tried on all of these roles, Chester strengthened connections with his family and was inspired by their chosen careers.

Help us give EVERY child the opportunities that Chester has.

Join the **PlayHouse PlayGroup** today!