



Remembering Our Inner Child

By Kathleen Dunn, Lucy Minnix Intern



On a rainy day in March, a tour of twenty first-graders came to the Museum. I was just beginning my internship at Hannah Lindahl, and decided to observe. So, standing back with a pen and paper in hand, I walked alongside the class through the Museum.

The first stop was the model of the 1904 Guske Dollhouse. The Museum Director, Mrs. Schroeder Kobb, talked about the similarities and differences between life in 1904 and life in 2017. “What do you think the kids in 1904 did for fun? Do you think they had computers or cell phones?” She asked. The class responded in unison: “No!”

Then, I overheard one child say to another: “I couldn’t LIVE without Minecraft.”

I was shocked, and honestly, a bit miffed. For this child, just the idea of not being able to play a video game made life seem unbearable. Maybe what they say about millennials is right, I thought.

“Alright, class, let’s keep moving,” Mrs. Schroeder Kobb said. She led the class into Discovery Hall, the section of the museum reserved for artifacts that the children could touch.

“I have some special instructions for you. Some of these items are thousands of years old. If the items are stone, bone, wood, or metal, you may use the tips of your fingers to touch them. But if the items are fabric, feathers, fur, or fragile, you may use the back of your hands to touch them,” Mrs. Schroeder Kobb said.

The children blinked. “Wait,” one girl said, “we can actually touch these?” Mrs. Schroeder Kobb smiled and nodded: “Yes.”

The room filled with gasps. The class scrambled around the touch table, reaching out to place their hands on whatever they saw. One child pointed to the leg bone of Mastodon and asked me what it was. “It’s a Mastodon bone,” I replied. “Oh... my... God,” the child said, his eyes opening so wide that I thought for sure they would pop out of his head. “It’s a Mastodon bone!” he cried. Choruses of little voices joined in as other children

gathered around the Mastodon bone. “A Mastodon bone!” “Wow!” “A real Mastodon bone!” the children echoed.

The first-graders could have spent all afternoon at the touch table were it not for Mrs. Schroeder Kobb’s intervention. Gathering the children to the center of the room, she asked: “Does anyone want to tell me about some of the awesome stuff you’ve seen?”

Dozens of small hands shot into the air.

As I listened to the children rant excitedly about the museum’s collections of petrified wood, dinosaur bones, Native American artifacts, or even Ostrich eggs, I realized just how special these museum tours were.

Growing up has a tendency to make us lose our sense of wonder. Whether it’s work, family, or school, adulthood often overtakes our child-like curiosity about the world. But watching the first-graders walk through Discovery Hall reminded me of just how invaluable a child’s perspective can be. What if we all viewed life with the same sense of awe that these children did?

I followed closely behind the class as we continued the tour. The children asked about the pioneers, the Potawatomi tribe, and the lives of Mishawaka’s most famous inhabitants. Never once did I hear another word about Minecraft.

If you are interested in volunteering at Hannah Lindahl Children’s Museum, please call 574-254-4540 or email director@hlcm.org



Please Support HLCM with a Membership Donation

I would like to ask for your support by making a donation to the Hannah Lindahl Children’s Museum Membership Campaign this year.

HLCM will continue to offer the Survive Alive Tour with the Mishawaka Fire Department, teaching kids in our community about fire safety and the Museum will continue to offer our History Based Museum Tours. (We lead almost 120 tours for school age children last year!)

This spring we will be hosting a special exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society, Who is a Hoosier? In addition, the Museum will be hosting a special spring event that you won’t want to miss!

This year we ask you to support Hannah Lindahl Children’s Museum as we look to updating our natural history exhibits, offering fun new ways for our community to tap into our shared local history and advance our mission of encouraging families to explore, learn, and enjoy the history of the Mishawaka area.

Contributions will support improving exhibits and expanding our educational offerings to the community.

With all membership levels you will receive our quarterly newsletter, a 10% discount in our gift shop, and free visits to the Museum for you and your family. The form on the next page explains the levels of giving and the premiums that are associated with each donation. Please take a moment to mail the membership form and your tax-deductible donation to HLCM at 1402 S Main Street, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Please support the work of HLCM through your membership donation to the Museum.

Thank you!



**Please invest in the future of
Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum
by becoming a
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*Please make check to
Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum*

**Premiums honored until return date
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(Memberships received at this level will be placed in
HLCM Endowment Fund.)

Thank you for your donation

*Please mail your donation and the form above to
Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum at
1402 South Main Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544*



Thank You

The Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum Endowment Fund administered by the Community Foundation of Saint Joseph County was begun with a founding donation of \$10,500 by Don and Nancy Crawford in 2000. The Endowment has since grown to more than \$225,000.

The Endowment Fund ensures the ongoing legacy of Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum in the local community. It supports our mission to provide a collection of unique artifacts that encourages families to explore, learn and enjoy the history of the Mishawaka area.

We wish to thank our
2016-2017 Donors
to the Endowment Fund

\$150 – \$200

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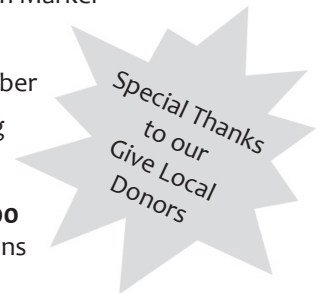
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If you wish to make a donation to the HLCM Endowment Fund, please contact director@hlcm.org, 574-254-4540 or contact the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County at 574-232-0041.

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Museum hours:

Tues. – Fri. 9 AM to noon & 1 PM to 4 PM,
(closed whenever school is not in session in SCM)

Admission charges: \$1.00 – Children ages 2 – 4
\$2.00 – Seniors ages 62+ & students ages 5 – 17
\$3.00 – Adults
Free Admission for Museum Members

2017 – 2018 Artifactors

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***Thank you for
your support!***

**For information about becoming a Museum Artifactsor,
please contact director@hlcm.org**

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 *is to provide a collection of unique artifacts that encourages families to* 
explore, learn, and enjoy the history of the Mishawaka area.