



## News

*A museum for growing children*  
The Children's Metamorphosis  
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### **The Met Makes Final Payment on \$30,000 Back-Rent Debt**

*Check to Landlord Marks Successful Completion of Save the Met Campaign*

**October 23, 2007, Derry NH** — The Children's Metamorphosis today announced it has finished paying off the significant back-rent debt announced in July. This debt could have led to the children's museum closing August 31, but instead a community-wide "Save the Met" fundraising drive succeeded in raising the \$30,000 owed the landlord plus additional funds needed for other debts and expenses.

In receiving the final check, landlord representative Jack Dowd said "The economic necessities made for a tough experience, but we're all extremely impressed with the commitment of the Met's many supporters, pleased to end up with a better relationship than ever before, and thrilled to see the rebirth of this valuable community resource."

"We're grateful for the landlord's patience and enthused by the community's incredible support," said Tracy LaPlante, executive director of the Met. "With dedicated, proven staff members and the expanded energy and resources of a new Board of Directors, we're already rolling out new programs and workshops, further improving our exhibits and learning centers, and working hard to provide a safe and fun experience for children in Derry and all the towns nearby."

Launched August 1, the Save the Met campaign generated almost \$49,400 in pledges through September — 95% of which have so far been converted to cash — plus another \$5,800 in donations, for a total of over \$55,000 (exceeding the goal of \$50,000).

Efforts are now focused on resuming the many normal services of the Met and further improving the experience it provides for young children and active families. New Pre-School Workshops and Family Fun Programs are scheduled through the fall, field trips from some of the 100 schools and preschools using the Met are starting up, and the popular Party Room is booking fast with birthday party reservations. Information on all this can be found at the Met's improved and growing website, [www.childrensmet.org](http://www.childrensmet.org).

Parallel efforts are aimed at improving the museum's operating efficiency, strengthening its financial foundation, and boosting daily attendance and annual memberships. The board of directors has tripled in size, and multiple committees and projects are well underway. (Additional qualified board members are still welcome.) Fundraising remains a high priority: research into various grants and endowment possibilities is moving forward, but too many potential business sponsorships remain unfulfilled. The board is working to better articulate the many benefits a business derives in gaining visibility in one of the area's most-visited locations while also supporting one of the community's most cherished organizations.



Met Executive Director Tracy LaPlante gives final payment to Depot Square Holdings Executive Director Jack Dowd. Photo available at: [www.childrensmet.org/rent-check.jpg](http://www.childrensmet.org/rent-check.jpg)

### **About the Met**

Established in 1991, the non-profit, 501(c)(3), Children's Metamorphosis museum brings over 30,000 visitors to downtown Derry from towns throughout southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. Focused on imaginative role play and stimulating education for children ages two through seven, the Met features a variety of themed interactive exhibits, several small animals, a rentable Birthday Party Room, an outdoor garden area, and an active program of daytime and evening workshops and events.