



News

A museum for growing children
The Children's Metamorphosis
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Met Not Yet Saved: Children's Museum Urgently Needs Community Support to Continue Operation

August 14, 2007, Derry NH — Approaching the mid-point in its month-long "Save the Met" campaign, the Met children's museum today put out an urgent call for additional support to help it stay in operation.

Encouraged by initial public concern, the museum launched the "Save the Met" campaign on August 1st to combat rising debt and the possible August 31st loss of its lease. The campaign's goals are to raise \$50,000 to cover debt and immediate expenses, and to secure both additional board members and new corporate sponsors to help improve operations going forward.

The many individual and the single commercial business pledge (from Embroidery Creations of Londonderry) received so far total about \$8,000. Only two long-term Corporate Sponsorships have been secured, with generous three-year commitments being made by Stonyfield Farm and William Blasek, Ltd.

Business support is especially critical to keeping the Met running with admission and membership fees that families can afford. Even Stonyfield's sponsorship of \$10,000 annually for three years covers just 5% of the Met's annual expenses.

"It's time for every company and business person interested in the region's economic development and quality of life to step up and do their part to help keep the Met alive," said Paul Lindemann, Met board member. "Even a small pledge or sponsorship clearly

marks a company as a good corporate citizen, earning the appreciation of hundreds of member families and the payback of drawing 30,000 visitors a year.”

Individuals and businesses can make Save the Met pledges at the Met, by phone (603-425-2560), or online at www.savethemet.org. Payment requests for each pledge will go out once the Save the Met campaign is declared a success.

Businesses can get information on Corporate Sponsorship opportunities on the same site, or by contacting Executive Director Tracy LaPlante by phone at the Met (603-425-2560) or by email (tracy.laplante@comcast.net). Individuals interested in joining the Met's Board of Directors should also contact Director LaPlante.

A variety of Save the Met fundraising programs are being planned for August and September (projected earnings for post-August 31st events will be included in the Save the Met goal). These include an August 18th Yard Sale by the Derry Mom's Club, a frustration-relieving Computer Smash sponsored by Duncan's European Automotive in Londonderry, a September 15th Kick-a-Thon at Tim Barchard's Professional Martial Arts Academy in Derry, active participation in DerryFest, and ongoing donation programs by Arbonne International and Pampered Chef proprietors. Details for all these and more can be found online at www.savethemet.org.

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