



# Fact Sheet

February 2008

*A museum for growing children*

The Children's Metamorphosis

6 West Broadway, #24, Derry, NH 03038

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- Mission** Help educate children ages one to seven and support their families by providing a safe, comfortable, environment for hands-on exploration, imaginative role play, and cooperative learning.
- Business** The Met is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded in 1991 and managed by an Executive Director and volunteer Board of Directors. The annual operating budget is about \$250,000. Income sources include admission and annual membership fees, fundraising events, grants, business and other sponsorships, and site rentals for birthdays, field trips, and other functions. The major fundraiser is an Annual Gala Dinner and Auction held each spring. The Met is member of the national Association of Children's Museums (ACM). Membership currently stands at about 400 families, plus the several hundred employees using the Met through their company's sponsorship or business membership.
- Facility** The Met rents about 5,000 square feet of unsubsidized commercial space in the lower level of a retail/office building on Broadway in downtown Derry. This includes a welcome area, the exhibits, a function room, storage, and an office (on an upper floor). For patron safety, all child spaces are on a single floor in easily-observed open areas, and there is a single entry/exit door with a staffed welcome desk. Adequate parking (in a town lot) is at the rear of the building. Prior to moving to this site in 2003, the Met was situated in a rented house in North Londonderry.
- Exhibits** Interactive exhibits and focus areas include: a health center, fire station and engine, restaurant, dental office, postal truck, schoolhouse, dress-up attic, puppet theater, music wall, state info center, construction area with bulldozer, color/light table, horizontal climbing wall, wilderness shelter, wooden blocks bench, dinosaur sand pit, toddler's play enclosure, gear table, on-wall board games, nature and animal displays, vehicle sand (rice) table, crafts center, and seashore corner. Custom murals adorn most walls. Live animals include a turtle, bunny, and birds.

- Programs** Staff-led Story Hour and Toddler Time sessions occur weekly. Frequent Preschool Workshops are drop-off programs for kids ages 3 - 4. Monthly Family Fun Programs are geared towards all kids and adults. Additional special museum and community events are held throughout the year.
- Visitors** The Met draws as many as 30,000 people a year, typically from towns across southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts. Area preschools, day care centers, schools, Mom's clubs, home-school groups, and summer camps also include Met visits in their programs.
- Staffing** Tracy LaPlante has been Executive Director since 2004. Several part-time staff positions include an Assistant (Lisa Bouche), a Resident Artist and Teacher (Gail Mass), and a Welcome Manager (Chris Santamaria). Most employees have been with the Met for many years.
- Partners** The Met receives in-kind donations of goods and services from numerous sources, including Central Paper (paper goods), ImageAbility (graphic production), Montage Marketing (PR and website development), and Pappalardo & Merrill (accounting).
- Sponsors** Current exhibit sponsors include Stonyfield Farm, Crossroads Construction, Derry Medical Center and Londonderry Family Practice, Nutfield Cooperative School, and Vanguard Dental Group. Additional sponsors include Arbonne International by Dawn Houle, William Blasek, Ltd., East Derry School of Music, Merrimac Tile Company, Northeast Flooring Solutions, Parkview Consulting, Stepping Stones School, and the Szustak Family.