

Report

Annual
Report
Included!

BFK Named Autism Friendly Community Partner

On Sunday, February 16, the BFK was recognized as the first Autism Friendly Community Partner in the state of Wisconsin by the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin for our dedication to providing opportunities for families with children on the spectrum. Children with autism can struggle with situations that others take for

granted. For instance, many children on the spectrum have sensory sensitivities, meaning that bright lights and loud sounds can make them uncomfortable. This can hinder children on the autism spectrum and their families from going out in

public to spend time together. At the Building for Kids, we want to be able to serve all children and their families, regardless of ability. For over ten years, the BFK has hosted a program for children on the spectrum and their families, which is now called Sensory Superstars. On the third Sunday of every month, we open our doors an hour early and offer free admission to children with autism and their families. During this time, we turn down the music and the lights and lead a special program. Along with Sensory Superstars, the BFK always has resources available for children on the spectrum. These resources include a quiet room, noise-reducing headphones, decision boards, play scripts, and many other items in our calm down kits. Through the support of the Green Bay Packers Foundation, the Helen Thom Roemer Fund, and the SAC Developmental Disabilities Fund, the BFK is able to consistently offer a safe and fun space for children with autism and their families.



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New Exhibit:

Clubhouse Sports

The chilly weather can make it hard for families to get out and be active. However, our new exhibit at the Building for Kids, Clubhouse Sports, is the perfect solution for cabin fever. Opened in February 2020, Clubhouse Sports is a sports-themed temporary exhibit. It features a basketball court, a putting green, and a golf-ball physics playground.

While the basketball hoop may not quite be regulation height, the hoop and court are the perfect size for kids to start learning the fundamentals of the game. On the putting green, kids can create their own mini-golf course by building different obstacles from the blocks provided.

The golf-ball physics playground allows sports and science to combine. With various ramps and different sized balls, kids can explore the world of physics. They can experiment to discover which balls travel the fastest down the



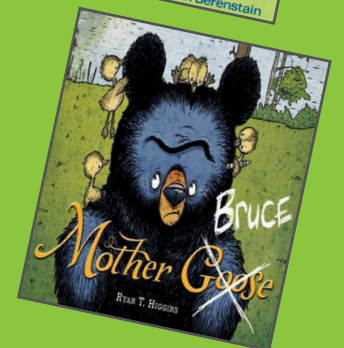
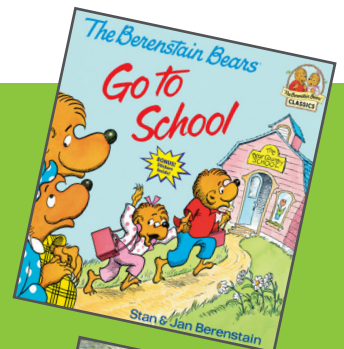
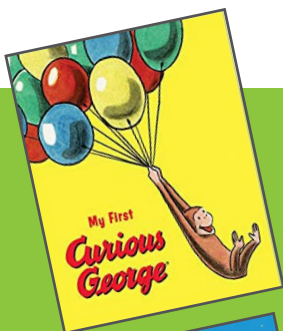
ramps and which balls don't make it to the intended destination. This exhibit encourages children to hypothesize and test their theory, allowing them to learn through trial and error.

In addition to its physical components, Clubhouse Sports creates the opportunity for adult interaction, like all of our exhibits at the BFK. Adults can teach their children how to shoot a basketball or hold a golf club. They can also put a name to some of the concepts that kids learn about while playing with the golf-ball physics playground, such as momentum. Clubhouse Sports will be here until September, when it will be replaced with a new traveling exhibit!

Storybook Stars Schedule

Meet the characters from favorite children's stories during a special read aloud time, then do an activity based on the book.

- Berenstain Bears - March 27, 28, & April 1
- Mercy Watson - April 15, 17, & 18
- Bruce the Bear - May 20, 22, & 23
- Curious George - June 17, 19, & 20



Did you know?

The Building for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It is because of the generosity of our community that we are able to offer exciting exhibits, educational programming, and fun family events. To donate, please see the remittance envelope included. You can also give over the phone or on our website, www.buildingforkids.org.

**Oliver
Zornow,
Executive
Director**

Director's Digest

We are so excited to launch this first edition of our new BFK Rocket Report, a quarterly newsletter designed to be a resource for you. We at the Building for Kids want to make sure that you stay informed on all that is happening at the BFK and see the impact that the BFK—supported through your memberships and contributions—is making throughout our community.

This newsletter is just one of the many exciting changes that have occurred recently at the Building for Kids. At the end of 2019, I took over the role of Executive Director, as Jarrad Bittner, who held the position for the last five years, left to explore a different opportunity in the community. Having been involved with the museum for over ten years, I am excited to lead the BFK into the next chapter.

As you will see in our enclosed Annual Report, 2019 was an incredible year at the BFK. We served a record number of admissions—topping 120,000 this past year. Each one of these admissions has had a lasting impact, allowing children and families to engage in critical play-based learning experiences. This past year, we continued our effort to make the BFK available to all members of our community by overcoming barriers for children and families in crisis or transition. Through our Access for All Initiative, these families were able to develop skills and relationships essential to building resilience.



In 2019, we developed a number of innovative collaborations. We launched a pilot program with a group of collaborative partners to improve the way our community supports families with their first child in our community. Look for more information on the results of this pilot in our next issue. We also celebrated and strengthened local neighborhoods through Be A Caring Neighbor Week and neighborhood outreach programs across the Fox Cities, engaging over 2,500 people. We invited local figures to talk about what they do in the community and provided programming centered around kindness and helping others.

Thank you for participating in and supporting our efforts in 2019. We can't wait to explore new ways to serve our community in 2020.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Oliver W. Zornow".



Upcoming Events

April 5

**Financial Literacy
Free Day**

12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

A free admission day focused on learning to save and spend money wisely.

May 7

**Educator
Appreciation Night**

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

A night for educators and their families to learn all about the museum.

July 22

Children's Parade

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Kids star in this parade with their costumes and decorated transportation.

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit BuildingForKids.org.

Meet the Board

Cindy Flauger - Past Chair

How long have you been a member of the board for the Building for Kids?

I am entering my fifth year as a board member. I served two years as a member before serving as the Chair of the Board for the last two years.

What has kept you engaged on the board?

Having had a career in the non-profit sector, specifically working with Birth-to-Three for 25 years, I am very aware of how the Building for Kids is addressing the developmental needs of children in our community. I have seen how impactful child-parent relationships are to the development of a child, and the Building for Kids is always working to enhance its programs to foster those relationships through play.

What do you enjoy most about your role as a board member?

I love the people. The board is made up of wonderful people with varied experiences and expertise, and the staff is dedicated and passionate about their work.



Why does the Building for Kids matter to the community?

The Building for Kids is the perfect place for the whole family to enjoy and provides the space for children to interact with others and their environment, while allowing them to follow the whims of their imaginations. As a grandparent, I have seen first hand how engaging with children through play can help form their identities. My granddaughter was shy and soft-spoken, but after a few trips to the museum and participating in programs, she grew in confidence and became more outgoing.

What advice would you share with our readers?

Stop by the BFK, and check out a new program or event. Once you see what is happening at the museum, you will want to get more involved!

Board of Directors

- Michael McCormick**, *Chair* - Kimberly-Clark
- Eric Lempke**, *Vice-Chair* - BMO Harris Bank
- Rick Stezenski**, *Treasurer* - Grant Thornton
- Neil Wait**, *Secretary* - Secura Insurance
- Cindy Flauger**, *Past Chair* - Community Leader
- Bob DeKoch** - The Boldt Company
- Cody Floeter** - Thrivent Financial
- Tom Hardwick** - Secura Insurance
- Joi Kennedy Brown** - Community Leader
- Kurt Krizan** - Appleton Area School District
- Ben LaFrombois** - von Briesen & Roper, S.C.
- Debra McDowall** - Community Leader
- Dr. John Mielke** - Community Leader
- Kristen Trimberger** - Goodwill NCW
- Dale Ver Voort** - Crazy Sweet, Best Version Media