

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a non-profit institution, Wonder Works depends on the kindness and generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations. You can help us fulfill our mission of providing a hands-on learning experience by donating time and/or money. Or you can get creative, something we encourage in kids and adults alike. Here are some ideas:

- Donate a family membership (\$65 per year) to a family in need. We are developing partnerships with area organizations to help those less fortunate.
- Host a tile party at Wonder Works. We'll give you free rein in the museum after hours. You bring in friends and family to play and paint 6 inch by 6 inch tiles that will eventually be displayed permanently on our outside walls. Each tile is \$75 apiece. It's a great time and a great way to get involved with the museum.
- Have your birthday party at Wonder Works and ask your guests to donate money or supplies to the museum.
- Tell your preschool, day care and elementary teachers about Wonder Works and ask them to schedule a field trip. All they have to do is call us at 708.383.4815 to arrange a field trip.
- Volunteer at the museum. We have slots available Wednesday through Sunday. Commit as much or as little time as you have to give. Call Shira at 708.383.4815.
- Buy a membership for a friend for a birthday.
- Wonder Works is in the process of forming an auxiliary board. If you would like to help the museum plan events and fundraisers, the auxiliary board is a great way to participate. Call Gale Zemel at the museum (708.383.4815) if you're interested.



**IN THE WORKS
EVERY WEEK**

**STORY TIME AT
WONDER WORKS**

*Every Friday
at 11am and 3pm*

Wonder Works

MARCH/APRIL 2004 NEWS

A Children's Museum in Oak Park
6445 West North Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Wonder Works Singers (Julia, Shawn, John, Joy and Amy) for a wonderful family concert in February. Thank you to Steven R. Jones, Amy Lee, Lynn Stegner, the Caffery's and Henrietta Atkin for donating memberships and field trips. And thank you also to all of our volunteers and employees. If you would like to volunteer, call Shira at 708.383.4815.



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6445 West North Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

telephone: 708.383.4815 fax: 708.383.5730 www.wonder-works.org

MUSEUM ADDS BOARD MEMBERS

Wonder Works welcomed two new board members at our January board meeting: Michael Griffin, who is an advertising sales rep for USA Today, and Kenneth Ng, an Oak Park attorney. Welcome aboard.

RECIPROCAL BENEFITS START AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Wonder Works Family Plus members (or higher) now receive free admission at more than 130 children's museums in the U.S. (and two in Canada). This includes free admission at Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier, Kohl Children's Museum in Wilmette and the DuPage Children's Museum in Naperville.

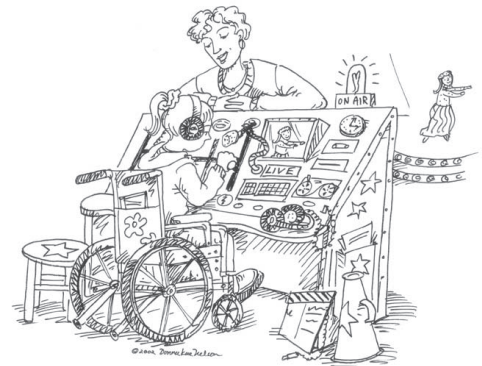
Please stop by the museum for a sticker to affix to your Wonder Works membership card. Or call us at 708.383.4815 and we can mail it to you.

And if you currently have a Child or Family membership, now would be a great time to upgrade to the Family Plus membership.

WONDER OF WONDERS

Believe it or not, it has been nine months since we opened. (Some folks wondered if we'd ever open.) Today we have more than 800 members and host seven birthday parties each weekend. We have held special events and concerts, and have added exhibits and activities. Yet there is much, much more to do. We have five exhibits still on the drawing boards. We are planning to add classes and workshops for children and adults. And we have a lot of school groups to invite and welcome into the museum.

Thank you to all of you for supporting the museum. We welcome your continuing support and look forward to enriching our children's lives for many years to come.



EVENTS IN THE WORKS

Sunday, February 29

Discover where boxes come from by taking apart and rebuilding boxes to see how cardboard turns into a three-dimensional object. Older children will enjoy designing their own boxes while younger children can decorate existing boxes. Drop by any time between 12pm and 3pm. Bring your own boxes or use ours.

Fridays in March

Outdoors expert and resident paleontologist Eric Gyllenhaal will be back in the museum every Friday in March from 10am to noon to conduct informal nature and science programs in the Wonder Works Great Outdoors exhibit. Here is the schedule:

- *Friday, March 5, 10am to noon: Footprints.* Learn about and make footprints of animals found in your neighborhood.

- *Friday, March 12, 10am to noon: Frogs.* Meet baby frogs and see how they grow up.
- *Friday, March 19, 10am to noon: Bugs.* Meet live bugs and find out where they spent the winter.
- *Friday, March 26, 10am to noon: Reptiles.* Meet live snakes and play with plastic reptiles.

March 6

Experience three different children's books brought to life through a dance interpretation with Louis Baumann. Watch our web site (www.wonder-works.org) for the time and more details.

April 21 and 23

In celebration of the Week of the Young Child, we're joining the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education and the Oak Park League of Women Voters in hosting a workshop for parents. Join early childhood experts to discuss how you

can help your child make the most out of play. Bring your children and come play on Wednesday, April 21 from 12pm to 1pm or Friday, April 23 from 6pm to 7pm.

April 24 and 25

Join us the weekend of April 24th for a special celebration of Earth Day. All weekend, we will hold special activities to help kids and adults learn more about how to make the Earth a better place. Watch our web site for more details at www.wonder-works.org.

WONDERFUL PARTIES

Need a special place for a meeting or fundraiser? Want to have your birthday party at Wonder Works and have the place to yourself? Call the museum at 708.383.4815 to learn more about our after hours event opportunities.