



FARM TO MARKET
DEBUT APRIL 29

*Join us for the grand opening
of this new experience.*

Wonder Works

APRIL 2005 NEWS

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

A LITTLE HELP PLEASE?

The museum has re-formed its fundraising committee and can use help with events, including our gala, which will be held in November. Wonder Works raises about half its annual budget from "earned revenue", also known as memberships, field trips, birthday parties and store sales. The rest comes from contributions. If you are interested in contributing time or money, all Elizabeth Smith at 708.383.4815. If you have a check for a million dollars or so, please make sure Elizabeth is seated before giving her the good news.

THANK YOU!

As always, we have many people to thank and we never quite remember everyone. We apologize if we've missed you. Thanks go to Alexandra Lee (board member) and Robert Deignan at Baker McKenzie for legal assistance. Same to Jim Rohling and Mark Grzymala from Rohling & Oberholzer. And we thank Joe Fiachino for his fine design work on Farm to Market. Thanks also go to Oak Leyden Development Services for partnering with us to bring underemployed adults into the workforce and to Oak Design & Construction for building our just-about-here puppet theatre. (More on the puppet theatre in May.)



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6445 West North Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

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

FARM TO MARKET EXPERIENCE DEBUTS APRIL 29

Long on the drawing board, our Farm to Market experience will finally debut on Friday, April 29 with a grand opening from 6 to 8pm. In this adventure, children will be able to experience farming--they can pick apples or corn--and transport food to the market, where they can buy, sell and barter at a farm stand complete with scales, a cash box and a chalkboard. A "juicer" activity will enable kids to "make" apple juice or apple sauce, while a mechanical conveyor will let children load the apples and move them from the farm to market. Finally, our lonely cow will have company.

Contributors to Farm to Market include the Illinois State Tourism Bureau, the Irving B. Harris Foundation, Radio Flyer and many folks who supported our gala last year and our golf outing.

We are still raising funds for phase two, which will include an energy efficient farm house and the corn field. If you would like to help, call Elizabeth Smith, Executive Director, at 708.383.4815, to hear our wish list. You can "adopt" items for as little as \$25.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH A SUCCESS IN FEBRUARY

Thank you to all our performers as we celebrated Black History Month in February. We kicked off the month with a performance by Local Motions and closed the celebration on February 26 with a stirring concert by the Judson Choir.

GOLF OUTING IN THE WORKS

Wonder Works has begun planning our third annual Wide World of Wonder Works Golf. This year we'll play in June; the tentative date is June 21. If you would like to be part of the committee or sponsor the event, e-mail Michael Griffin at mgriffin@millerdixon.com.

EVENTS IN THE WORKS

Tuesday, April 12, 7pm to 8:30pm

How to Eat Healthy--and Like It. - The folks from Seven Generations Ahead, a non-profit focused on building sustainable communities, will provide insight into how to develop healthy eating habits. A \$4 donation will be split by Wonder Works and Seven Generations Ahead.

Thursday, April 21 to Sunday, April 24

Join us to help save our planet, or at least explore creative ways we can help. Starting on Thursday, join the Hamill Family Play Zoo from 10am to noon to create art using sand, rocks and other natural materials. At 3:30, the Trailside Museum will bring birds that are native to Illinois.

On Friday from 10am to noon, join Eric the Outdoor Expert to learn about frogs and other wildlife from farm ponds. On Friday at 4:30, Sandy Lucas will perform a special Earth Day concert. (Tickets are \$4 for members and \$7 for non-members.)

On Saturday and Sunday, we'll have activities all day: meet organic farmers (thanks to Seven Generations Ahead), pet live animals, find endangered animal species, plant seedlings, make recycled paper and much more. On Saturday from 12:30 to 1:30, Jamba Juice will make smoothies and at 3:30 we'll make ice cream together. See our web site for a complete list of activities at www.wonder-works.org.

Tuesday, May 17, 7pm to 8:30pm

How to Get Fat Without Really Trying - Seven Generations Ahead will screen the ABC-TV special "How to Get Fat Without Really Trying" (narrated by Peter Jennings) and discuss ways to eat better. A \$4 donation will be split by Wonder Works and Seven Generations Ahead.

BOOK THE MUSEUM FOR A PARTY DURING AND AFTER HOURS

Wonder Works is a special place to hold a party, whatever the occasion. You can rent the museum for a kid's party or for family events. How about a summer family reunion? A nonprofit fundraiser? Or just book Wonder Works for a simple-to-plan, light-on-the-cleanup party for adults and kids. Call the museum at 708.383.4815.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Call Shira at 708.383.4815

WANT TO JOIN THE BOARD?

Call John Harris at 312.706.2529

HAVE YOUR PARTY AT WONDER WORKS! CALL 708.383.4815 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION.