

# Northeast Texas Children's Museum

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

APRIL-JUNE 2016

*The mission of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum is to inspire imagination, enhance creativity, and build confidence in Children.*

## The Director's Corner

Wow! What a busy three months we have had at the Children's Museum. With our first Children's Health Fair, Daddy-Daughter Dance, and our Mother-Son Superhero Night, we have hosted three special events. Healthy Kids for preschoolers and Weird Science for fifth graders highlight our educational programs. With the completion of the *SS Good Neighbor*, we have seen an increase in attendance. Our Saturday attendance in January and February doubled from a year ago. I hope each of you share in



**Sharline Freeman,  
Executive Director**

our excitement and will have an opportunity to support the Children's Museum at the Silent Auction and Market on April 25 from 6:00 to 8:00. Please know how much we appreciate each of you.

## Special Events Highlight February

With the Daddy-Daughter Dance and the Mother-Son Superhero Night, February has become one of our busiest months of the year. These events offered a wide range of activities, including crafts, challenges,

and balloon entertainment. The success of each event was important to the success of the Children's Museum. "Wish Upon a Star" was the theme of the Daddy Daughter Dance which was attended by 439 guests. The most popular activity during the Mother-Son Superhero Night involved young superheroes saving dogs from a house threatened by floodwaters. Pictures taken at both events by Dave Hambrick are at the Children's Museum to be picked up.





## Weird Science

Thanks to the sponsorship of Farmers Electric Cooperative, the Weird Science program was offered again to fifth graders during February. Over 500 students participated in the hands-on science program. The students rotated through three stations which included Crazy Creature Blood (measuring volume lab using graduated cylinders), Earth Ooze (plasticity lab with triple beam balances), and Icy Hot Swamp (salt/freshwater temperature lab using thermometers).

## Christening of SS Good Neighbor

The *SS Good Neighbor* was christened on March 31 with pink lemonade. With the attendance of the Children's Museum Board of Directors and the Chamber of Commerce, the Children's Museum expressed their appreciation to Dixie and Bob Stachowiak for their donation of the ship. A group of volunteers with expertise in building transformed the ship's plans into a strong wooden structure with a slide and climbing wall. The volunteers that worked on the ship included Bob

Stachowiak, Justin Crossland, Joe Shipman, Justin Bryant, Charlie Smith, Greg Hooten, Luke Hooten, Jim Patton, Tony Hunter, Jim Brown, Al & Rose Stapleton, and Don & Debbie Daffron. The *SS Good Neighbor* has become a highlight for children visiting the Children's Museum. The ship now proudly flies the flag of Dixie Turman State Farm Insurance.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Face painting, Easter pictures, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt were all part of the Saturday activities on March 19 at the Children's Museum. With eggs and prizes furnished by Brookshire's Grocery, the children hunted for eggs hidden by the Easter bunny. Pictures from the day are posted on the Northeast Texas Children's Museum Facebook page.



## Have Lung, Will Travel

The Mega Lung traveled to Paris Regional Medical Center as part of the Kick Butts Day. This was a nationally recognized health awareness event designed to promote smoking cessation and to provide Tobacco Free Education to all age groups. Hospital staff took a walk through the lung as Elana Barton, Children's Museum Director of Development, answered their questions. The Mega Lung is available to support health awareness for a variety of events.

### MUSEUM INFORMATION

**Northeast Texas  
Children's Museum**  
2501 Hwy 24  
Commerce, TX 75428

[www.netxcm.com](http://www.netxcm.com)  
903-886-6055

**Hours of Operation:**  
Tuesday - Saturday: 9:30 - 4:30  
Summer Hours: 10:00 - 5:00  
Closed Monday and Sunday

**Admission:** \$5.00 per person  
(Children under 2 are free)  
Memberships available

**For more information:**  
Sharon Freeman,  
Executive Director  
[director@netxcm.com](mailto:director@netxcm.com)

Elana Barton,  
Director of Development,  
[elana@netxcm.com](mailto:elana@netxcm.com)





## Friendship Bridge



The Eighth Annual Friendship Bridge event will be held at the Children's Museum on Monday, April 11 at 1:30. There will be two levels of play – seasoned and beginners. Co-chairing the event for the seventh year are Nancy McFarland and Toni Deaton. With groups from Rockwall, Dallas, Commerce, and other communities, the event promises to be a fun afternoon. Cash prizes and dessert will be given. Bridge players may come as an individual or with a group. Tickets can be purchased at the Children's Museum by calling 903-886-6055.



## Healthy Kids

Healthy Kids from A to Z spring classes ended on March 2. Instructor D'Ann Frank presented the young students with certificates for completing the letters "R" to "Z". Activities for the final day also included parachute fun and a healthy snack. Ms. Frank will begin the fall class on Wednesday, September 14 with the letter "A". The fall class will conclude on November 2. Thanks Hunt Regional Healthcare for your sponsorship of this class.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Virginia Collier has volunteered for the last four years at the Children's Museum. Her activities have included presenting a children's musical and helping with educational programs, including Dino Math and Weird Science. She has been willing to help whenever she is needed. Virginia lives with her husband, Tommy, in Ladonia. She and Tommy moved to Ladonia in 2006 to restore a home built in the 1860's. The Colliers moved from Dallas where Virginia had been the choir teacher for Allen High School in Allen, TX. Presenting outstanding musicals was part of each year's activity. She and

Tommy also worked in the antique business with shops located in Snider Plaza Antique Shops. They showed their English antiques at the Marburger Show during the fall and spring each year at Round Rock Antique Extravaganza.

The Children's Museum appreciates all that Virginia has done to support its educational programs. Thanks Virginia.



## Save the Date for Our Silent Auction

Mark your calendar for the Silent Auction and Market on April 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Sam Rayburn Student Center at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Donate an item and come shop. This event is of utmost importance to educational programming and museum operations. We appreciate your support of this event!



Do you shop on Amazon? Go to smile.amazon.com and search for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price on eligible items. It's an easy way to give to the Children's Museum at no cost to you!



## 2016 Summer Activities

### JUNE

June 1-24: *Wacky Wednesdays, Texas Thursdays, & Face Painting Fridays*  
June 28-July 1: *Zootopia Week*

### JULY

Tuesday 5-Friday 8: *Time Travel Week*  
Tuesday 12: *Girls' Tea Party*  
Wednesday 13-Friday 15: *Wild About Art Class*  
Tuesday 19-Thursday 22: *Outdoor Week*  
Tuesday 26-Friday 28: *Superhero Week*  
Friday 29: *Pirate Day*

### AUGUST

Tuesday 2-Friday 5: *Olympics Week*  
Tuesday 9-Friday 12: *Back-to-School Week*

## Donate to the Museum

Donations to the Northeast Texas Children's Museum can be made in multiple ways. Go to [www.netxcm.com](http://www.netxcm.com) to donate through PayPal. You can also come by the Museum to make a donation at any time. You may also mail your donation with the form below. Remember that every dollar helps keep our doors open!



### Board Members

Sharline Freeman,  
*Executive Director*  
Becky Thompson,  
*President*  
Becky Adams,  
*Vice President*

Jeanette Moser, *Secretary*

Trish Wood, *Treasurer*

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Donna Tavener

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### Ex officio Members

Paula Hanson

Bonnie Hunter

David McKenna

Cari Sturch

### Donor Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount of Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If sponsoring a day, let us know the birthday, anniversary, or other date that you would like to sponsor.**

**Send to:** Northeast Texas Children's Museum  
P. O. Box 994  
Commerce, Texas 75429