

Northeast Texas Children's Museum

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2017

The Director's Corner: A New Home for NETXCM



**Sharline Freeman,
Executive Director**

The last several months have brought uncertainty, followed by doubt, and then elation as the Children's Museum has searched for a new home. When the situation was evaluated in April, 2017, three major obstacles loomed ahead in the future of the Museum: the location for the museum; the money that would be needed for the transition to an existing building; and the time needed to make the necessary change. A timeline of this trail would be:

January - Heating system in Children's Museum building fails and cannot be repaired.

February - Temporary heat is provided by TAMUC at the cost of \$18,000.

March - Engineers study the heating and cooling systems in the building. The system was purchased

for building when the building was built in 1964.

April - TAMUC decided it was not feasible to replace the heat in such an old building and the building would eventually be demolished.

May, June, July - The Children's Museum searched for a building to purchase or one to refurbish. None was available.

August - An exciting solution was discussed during lunch with Dr. Keck, TAMUC President; Colette Young, NETXCM Board Member; Sharline Freeman, NETXCM Executive Director; and Linda King, Executive Assistant for Dr. Keck. The Children's Museum Board of Directors voted to **move forward with the concept of locating on the site of the former university President's home**. On that site TAMUC will construct a \$30 - \$40 million agricultural exposition center.



Dr. Randy Harp, TAMUC School of Agriculture Director; Donna Tavener, NETXCM Board President; Sharline Freeman, NETXCM Executive Director; and Dr. Ray Keck, TAMUC President.

September - TAMUC announced that the site of the former university president's home would be constructed in phases. **The construction of the Children's Museum would be Phase 1.** Being the first phase of the development is very exciting for us as it brings the construction date closer. After the cost of the building is determined, steps will begin toward a fundraising drive. We are very appreciative of the support of TAMUC.

Your support has never been more important to the Children's Museum. There are still obstacles ahead. However, with your support the Children's Museum can now look to a very bright future!

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

MUSEUM INFORMATION

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

www.netxcm.com
903-886-6055

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

Admission:
Children: \$6.00
Adults: \$5.00
(Children under 2 are free)
Memberships available

For more information:
Sharline Freeman,
Executive Director
director@netxcm.com

Elana Barton,
Director of Development,
elana@netxcm.com

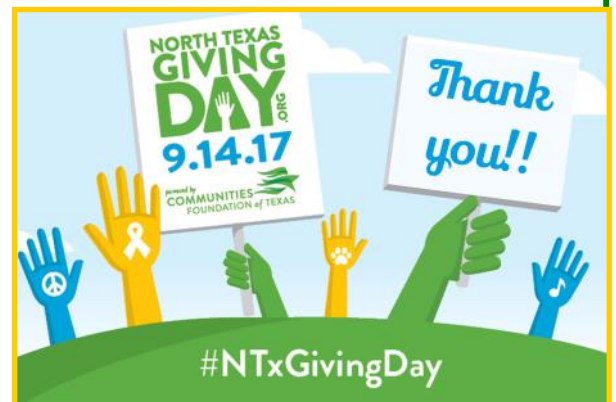


Approval for Selling Land

Since 1996 the Children's Museum has had a deed to the property north of Chicken Express restaurant on Prim Street. The land was sold to the museum by multiple taxing entities in 1996 for \$50. However, the deed limited the Children's Museum to use the land to build but not to sell the property. With the future location of the Children's Museum moving to TAMUC property, the Children's Museum has asked the non-taxing entities of Hunt County to remove the restriction. This would make it possible for the museum to sell the land; the money would be used to build a new museum. The Hunt County Commissioners Court, Commerce ISD, City of Commerce, and Hunt Hospital District have each voted to approve a Right of Reverter on the Deed and Termination of Right of Reverter. The Children's Museum is very grateful for their cooperation in making this future sale of property possible.

North Texas Giving Day

WOW is the best way to express our response to reaction to North Texas Giving Day!! With so many concerns and needs in our state and community, we were cautious with expectations concerning what donations we might have. As midnight approached on September 14, our total for giving was **\$42,708**. This amount was given by eighty-five donors and included online giving but also check, cash, and matches. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Your donations help give the Children's Museum a future.



Animals (not live ones) Arrive at Children's Museum

A stuffed lion and a 5' paper mache elephant arrived at the Children's Museum during the summer

months. Herald, a paper mache elephant made from *Herald-Banner* newspapers, was donated by Art Teacher Bennie McBride. Bennie's art students made the elephant many years ago at Edgewood Middle School. She retired and the elephant needed a new home. We appreciate their thinking of the Children's Museum, and Herald seems happy in his new home.

Herald has been joined by a stuffed lion. The stuffed lion was donated by Joan Terry of Rockwall. This lion could be the official mascot for TAMUC, but the children have enjoyed giving him walks around the museum. We thank these two individuals for their donations to the Children's Museum.



Travels of the MEGALung

Do you want a MegaLung to visit your school? Because of grants from Texoma Health Foundation and Hunt Regional Healthcare, the lung is visiting many schools and Back-to-School Fairs this fall. Those include the Greenville Library; Quinlan and Rains County Bac-to-School Fairs; Fannindel; Griffis (Caddo Mills); Sam Rayburn; Commerce Elementary; Trenton; Ector; and Dodd City. Presenters have included Elana Barton, Amanda Hill, Jim Ayers, and Sharline Freeman. Give us a call if you are interested in having the MEGALung visit your school!



Dino Math

Dino Math is beginning a new year under the sponsorship of the Young Foundation. Dino Math will begin October 6 and conclude October 27. This program on measurement is for third-graders in the area. This year classes will be coming from Commerce's

A.C. Williams, North Hopkins, Saltillo, Prairieland, Celeste, Dodd City, Como Pickton, and Cooper.

Healthy Kids from A to Z

Amy Stark is directing the Healthy Kids from A to Z program this fall. Beginning with the letter "Q" for quiet, the eight-week program is sponsored by the Hunt Regional Healthcare. The spring class will begin in January with the letter "A".



Brunch with Santa

The favorite family event at the Children's Museum is Brunch with Santa. This year the event will be Saturday, December 2 at 9:30 to 11:30 am. The pancake breakfast will be served courtesy of Commerce Lil' Angels. Santa will be returning to visit with and take a complimentary photo with each child. There will also be Christmas crafts and most exhibits will be open for play. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the door. This is a great way to begin the Christmas season!



Board Members

Sharline Freeman,
Executive Director

Donna Tavener,
President

Becky Adams,
Vice President

Broc Hohenberger

Kathleen Hooten

Patricia Keck

Jeanette Moser,
Secretary

Gary Rusch

Becky Sinclair

Becky Thompson

Amber Weaver

Trish Wood, *Treasurer*

Colette Young

Ex officio Members

Darrek Ferrell

Paula Hanson

Bonnie Hunter

David McKenna

Cari Sturch

Wyman Williams

Thanks to our July-September Donors

D'Ann and Richard Frank
Dixie Turman
Duncan Insurance Agency
Vic and Mary Brooke Casad
Julie McLeroy
Anna Knutson
Duncan and Ginger Thomas
John Walker
Wyman Williams
Donna Tavener
Cindy Staub
Nancy and Keith McFarland
Mark Reid
J Russell Armstrong, CFP
Kevin Hanson
Alicia Currin
Becky Adams
Teresa Machen
Gil and Tammy Naizer
Commerce Funeral Home
Drs. Fred and Anna Blohm
Patricia Wood
Amy Newhouse
Ben and Nancy Doughty
Patricia Keck

Kathleen and Greg Hooten
Mike and Kelly Mason
Freda Lambert
Beckey Thompson
Commerce Vet Clinic
Courtney Kulcak
Thalian Culture Club
Dana Ryer
Sharline Freeman
Gloria Matthews
Kay Jensen
Tom and Virginia Collier
Estefana Guzman
Becky Sinclair
Rich and Joan Lawrence
Deborah Dunham
Bridgette Coker
Nancy Ogden
Frances Sartwell
Fredda Horton
The Barton Family
Amber Weaver
Mark and Shannon Leyerle
Ted and Ann Reel
Ralph and Jeanette Moser

Charlie and Sharon Smith
Larry & Colette Young
Gene and Betty Casselberry
Tony and Bonnie Hunter
Bobbie and Arlan Purdy
Jenna Hill
Pat and Janet Skauge
Laura and Joe Milligan
Charles and Mary Beth Perry
Susan Lampe
Darrek and Lindsay Ferrell
Barbara Shwiff
David Gibson
Bob Barnard
Sherry Johnson
Dennis Anderson
Mrs. Barba McCord
Diane Stegall
Brenda Estes
Janet Duncan
Commerce ISD
Cypress Bank
Lone Star Eatery
Commerce Rotary
Commerce Lions Club

Donate to the Museum

Donations to the Northeast Texas Children's Museum can be made in multiple ways. Visit our website at 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!



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