

bayou country children's museum

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[YOUR NAME HERE]

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS FROM PRIOR EVENTS (\$1,000 and above as of MARCH 2011)

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Ms. Jeanine Van der Loo
Wal-Mart Store #1016 & 2706
Dr. Ken & Mrs. Tina Wong

play it forward

Double down and ante up!

Join us for the Bayou Country Children's Museum's 2nd Annual

"Play it Forward" Casino Night & Auction, which will be held at Envie Restaurant's banquet facility in Thibodaux on Saturday April 2nd.

This adult's only event will begin with cocktails at 6:30pm and the professionally run gaming tables (poker, blackjack, craps and roulette) will open from 7pm - 10pm. At 10pm, the live auction begins and the gaming winners (those with the most chips at the end of the night) are announced and given prizes.

"This is really a fun night for everyone," says Michelle Folse, Board Treasurer and Event Chairperson. "Whether you are a high roller or never picked up a deck of cards, you'll enjoy yourself at this event!"

Last year's first-time event brought in over \$47,000 and event organizers



hope to do even better this year.

A silent auction takes place during the event. Bid on fabulous items including a 2-night stay at the Beau Rivage, Walt Disney World park tickets, artwork, dining experiences and much more! The highlight of the evening is the live auction. Included in the live auction is a designer purse auction with one of the purses containing jewelry!

Tickets are \$50 per person through March 25th and \$65 per person thereafter. Ticket price includes food, spirits and gaming chips. Tickets are available at the Thibodaux Chamber office, Bilello's Barbers and Birdsall's Jewelry in Thibodaux and Cut Off and all Synergy Bank locations or call the BCCM office at 985-446-2200.

A few sponsorships are still available.

successful fall fundraisers



With the help of our awesome volunteers and valuable sponsors we did it: 5 fundraisers in less than 10 weeks! It started in mid-September with the Bayou Country Children's Festival at the Cut Off Youth Center. Next was a wine and cheese social in Morgan City hosted by Michael and Jennifer Wise and Ken and Rosalyn Conrad at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Pecoraro. In October, we hosted the wildly popular "Night at the BOO-seum" where we saw over 2,500 visitors in three hours! Finally, November brought us cooler weather and both our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament (held at Atchafalaya this year) and our 2nd Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk and Kids' Run in conjunction with the Thibodeauxville Fall Festival. In all, the Fall fundraisers brought in over \$58,000 with all net proceeds to help build the BCCM. Thank you!



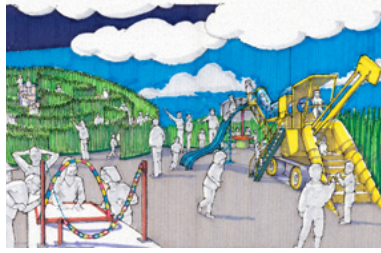
View photos from recent events!
Visit www.bccm.info



bccm - who? what? when? where? why?

Why do we need a local children's museum?

According to the Association of Children's Museums, "Children's museums give children a time and place to JUST BE CHILDREN; Light a creative spark by helping to develop essential learning skills; Allow families to connect in meaningful ways; all while contributing to the local economy".



What makes the BCCM special?

The Bayou Country Children's Museum will have a Cajun theme throughout its 7 galleries (play areas), birthday party rooms and a unique gift shop, all housed in 12,650 sq.ft. The BCCM will have many signature exhibits: a full-sized sugarcane combine harvester climbing structure, a giant oak tree reading area, a large oil derrick, Jean Lafitte treasure dig, duck blind, shrimp boat, alligator Mardi Gras float, water estuary table, performance stage, fun ways to exercise and stay healthy, bridges to construct and a large globe to show the origins of our Cajun culture. We are also working out details with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office to include a "safety town" aspect.

Who will visit the BCCM?

Designed for children ages 2- 12, their families and teachers, the BCCM will draw from an eight parish area and beyond for family outings and school field trips. ACM

projections forecast large numbers of visitors based on the area's population, demographics and scope. Hammond recently opened their children's museum and has already booked more than 200 birthday parties and 100 field trips, just in 4 months. The BCCM already has the land secured, building designed and the exhibits ready for fabrication.

So what's the hold-up?

Funding! Our overall budget for the BCCM is \$3.4 million (nearly 1/4 the national average), we are 1/3 of the way there in order to open our doors debt free, but who can do that? Like others who need more money, we will have to go to the bank! "Dr. Ken Chadwick, NSU, is helping us complete the business plan, then we will approach local financial institutions to ask for their help in securing a loan. We must break ground in 2011," says Board President, Kathleen Gros.

What can you do to help?

Make a donation, buy a brick, come to Play It Forward, donate stock, sponsor an exhibit or gallery or all of the above. Every penny donated will lower our loan total and can be restricted to construction.



So do we need you? YES WE DO!

Call 446-2200 or visit us at www.bccm.info

sponsor spotlight

Ever thought to donate stock to the Bayou Country Children's Museum? Dr. Jimmy Ponder did! In a recent stock transaction, the BCCM received over \$20,000 worth of stock from this community physician.

Board President, Kathleen Gros said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors I am delighted with this new revenue resource. It is something of which we have been aware, but this is the first sponsor who has chosen this path. We look forward to having this available to many other donors in the future." Dr. Ponder is the Medical Director of the Headache and Pain Center, AMC with offices in Gray and New Iberia. The practice specializes in diagnosing and relieving all types of pain through the use of technologically advanced equipment and individualized treatment.

"I am proud to be a part of the Bayou Country Children's Museum in my community. As a parent of a toddler, I know the value of discovery and learning through play. The BCCM will provide a great service to the area both educationally and economically," says Dr. Jimmy Ponder.



Jimmy N. Ponder, Jr, MD
Medical Director of the
Headache and Pain Center

Thank you to **Jimmy Ponder, MD** for partnering with the BCCM to help bring the children's museum to life.

school involvement

The Bayou Country Children's Museum was recently granted permission from the Lafourche Parish School Board and the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux to proceed with a fundraiser within the schools that would get the students involved in helping to build the BCCM. Each school principal was contacted with the request to hold a raffle for an engraved brick.



Participating homeroom teachers are given all materials to hold a raffle in their classroom for those students who bring a \$1 donation during a specified two-day period. Those students are then allowed to wear "crazy socks" to show their support of the BCCM. For every \$100 raised, a participant's name is drawn for an engraved brick.

If your school hasn't participated yet, call them and tell them you want to help support the Bayou Country Children's Museum!

etched in stone

Well, maybe it's not etched in stone, but you can have your name, company logo, message or even a child's drawing etched in a brick that will be laid in the courtyard of the BCCM. This courtyard will be seen by all visitors upon entering and exiting the museum. "The engraved brick campaign is going strong. We're about to hit the 100 mark with the number of bricks sold," says Tia Lopez, Board Member and Brick Committee Chairperson. "It's nice to see all of the memorial bricks too - what a great way to remember someone." Businesses can get in on the action too by having their logo engraved on the brick. "The most unique feature of our program is the ability to engrave a child's drawing directly on to a brick. They'll be so excited to see their artwork at the children's museum," exclaims Lopez. The BCCM is even offering replica bricks as an add-on to your order, this way you can have one in your home or office too. Bricks range in price from \$100 to \$200, depending on the size. For a form, call the office or visit the website at: www.bccm.info



big news is coming!!

We have some big news - It's HUGE!
You're going to be so excited to hear it!

We can't wait to tell you!
But... we can't just yet.

But when we can, you'll be the first to know. Then we can all do our "Happy Dance" together!

Stay tuned...



visit: www.bccm.info

Help us break ground!
Donate to the BCCM. Call us at 446-2200 or visit us at www.bccm.info to find out how you can help.

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OUR MISSION:

The mission of the BCCM, a 501(c)(3) organization, is to act as a gateway of knowledge that educates area children and their families while promoting the unique cultures of south Louisiana with entertaining, educational, and interactive experiences that enrich the lives of children and visitors through innovative communication strategies, activities and exhibits.



newsletter
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Please help us conserve costs. Call or e-mail
us to receive this newsletter electronically.
(985) 446 - 2200 / contactus@bccm.info



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