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November 28, 2022

Dear Co-op Market Team,

At the Fairbanks Children's Museum, we provide children and families a safe space to interact and connect while developing crucial life skills. Through open-ended and self-directed play, they are encouraged to use critical thinking and their creativity is inspired. As a result of both familiar and unfamiliar social interactions, they begin learning about community building and cooperation.

The museum has the broadest reach of any early childhood development agency in the Interior, seeing over 40,000 visitors each year, and reaching thousands more through outreach on a weekly basis. We attend events put on by countless other community organizations, bringing pieces of our museum with us to engage with families and meet them where they are.

Open six days per week, with a staff of eleven, the museum is able to serve the Fairbanks community with interactive exhibits, parent support groups, classes, field trips and workshops, summer camps, foster care visitation, sensory days, family concerts, and so much more. Our programming grows each year as we reach more families and as we continue to be one of the only resources available to young families through Fairbanks' long winters.

We are currently working to raise money to fund expansion research as we hope to grow in the coming years. Funds from the Lend-a-Hand program would support early childhood education today and the growth of offerings for the future!

I personally enjoy rounding up every time I visit the Co-op Market and would be so honored for the Museum to benefit from this beautiful program centered around community investment. As we all know, our children are the future, so let's keep early childhood resources abundant in the Interior!

Thank you for your consideration,

Meredith Maple



INSPIRING AND CONNECTING FAMILIES THROUGH DISCOVERY AND THE POWER OF PLAY