



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

For More Information:
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Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville Campaign Surpasses Midpoint of Fundraising Goal

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville announced today that they have surpassed the midpoint of their fundraising goal with more than two million dollars pledged toward the development of the children’s Museum. Lead benefactors of the children’s Museum include Bragg Financial Advisors and the Bragg family, Dale F. Halton Foundation, Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, Merancas Foundation, Newell Rubbermaid and Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville.

The funds place the children’s Museum at 64% of its \$3.5 million goal and support Discovery Place Inc. in moving toward providing a network of neighborhood-based educational facilities.

“We are extremely excited and grateful for the support granted to Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville,” said Debbie Curry, project manager for Discovery Place KIDS. “Our goal is to launch a network of children’s museums for our region. The community’s generosity clearly shows they recognize the importance of developing Discovery Place KIDS.”

Scheduled to open in Huntersville, N.C. in 2009, Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville aspires to encourage children and parents to learn and grow together. Resembling a small community, the children’s Museum will feature exhibits, programs and rich play-environments that focus on development of cognitive, motor, communication and social skills.

The Museum’s theme, “I CAN”, aims to trigger interactive experiences and role-playing opportunities for early childhood development in children ages one through seven years old. Themed areas include *I Can Create*, *I Can Be Healthy*, *I Can Work*, *I Can Move*, *I Can Explore*, *I Can Build* and *I Can Grow*.

The Merancas Foundation, recognized as a charitable-giving organization, provided the lead donation of one million dollars toward the Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville project.

“The Merancas Foundation is pleased to be making the lead donation of one million dollars to support the development of Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville,” said Casey Mermans, president and co-founder of the Merancas Foundation. “As a family foundation, we are excited to support this

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with Lead Donation from Merancas Foundation
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Museum serving thousands of local families for whom the education of their young children is their highest priority.”

Donations for exhibit sponsorships have been received from Michelle and Nelson Cosgrove, Debbie and Keith Curry, Ron and Carol Glasshoff, Griffin Brothers Companies, The Guild of Discovery Place and Charlotte Nature Museum, Lakeside Family Physicians, Ms. Sarah R. McAulay, Pine Hall Brick Company, Mrs. Suzanne B. Sadler and Joseph Zuhosky, MD and Mark Hartman, MD of Total Spine Specialists.

About Discovery Place KIDS

Discovery Place KIDS is an innovative model in regional children’s museums being developed by Discovery Place, Inc., the parent company of Discovery Place and Charlotte Nature Museum. Discovery Place KIDS will provide a regional network of community-based children’s museums built on the theme of “I CAN,” and will offer unique opportunities for interactive learning-through-play for children ages one through seven and their parents or caregivers.

Discovery Place KIDS-Huntersville planning offices are located at P.O. Box 237, Huntersville, N.C. For more information visit discoveryplacekids.org or call 704-875-0272.

About Discovery Place

Discovery Place is located in uptown Charlotte at 301 N. Tryon Street. The Museum is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available in the Museum’s parking garage – the Carol Grotnes Belk Complex – at the corner of Sixth and Church streets. For more information about Discovery Place, guests should call 704 -372-6261 or visit discoveryplace.org.

One of the top hands-on science museums in the nation, Discovery Place provides ever-changing, entertaining facilities that foster experiences in areas that range from life science to space exploration. More than a half-million people from all over the United States visit Discovery Place, its IMAX® Dome Theatre and Charlotte Nature Museum each year. Discovery Place is supported, in part, with a Basic Operating Grant from the Arts & Science Council.

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