

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

CREATED IN 1925. MOVED TO CURRENT LOCATION IN 1946.



During El Día de los Niños 2017, Riley Children's Health and the Indiana University School of Emergency Medicine fitted children for free bike helmets.



2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service
In 2014, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service—the nation's highest honor for museum service to the community. The medal, given by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, was presented to the museum in May 2014 during a ceremony at the White House conducted by then First Lady Michelle Obama.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is one of only a handful of museums in the United States to be recognized with the National Medal more than once, having also received the award in 1997.

Accessible to All
The Children's Museum endeavors to make its offerings accessible to all through a variety of free and reduced admission programs; the total 2018 value of free and reduced admission was more than \$4.3 million. Current programs include:

- **Free Days**—The museum offers free admission four times each year, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Fiesta Familia, and Christmas Eve Day.
- **First Thursday Nights**—On the first Thursday of each month, the museum and the *Riley Children's Health Sports Legends Experience*® are open late and admission is \$6 per person from 4 to 8 p.m.
- **Foster Family Program**—In collaboration with the Indiana Department of Child Services, the museum offers a free one-year membership to licensed Indiana foster parents and their families.
- **Access Pass Program**—The Children's Museum established the Access Pass program, which allows qualifying low-income Indiana families to attend the museum and the *Riley Children's Health Sports Legends Experience*® for just \$2 per person per visit. The program is a collaborative effort with Conner Prairie, NCAA Hall of Champions, the Eiteljorg Museum, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Indiana State Museum, and Newfields as well as Terre Haute Children's Museum and WonderLab in Bloomington.



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Neighborhood Outreach/Community Initiatives

The Children's Museum takes pride in its support for a wide variety of neighborhood and community initiatives. The museum and its Neighborhood Development Working Group bring together residents, civic leaders, and various associations, institutions, and organizations to improve educational and career opportunities for families living in the six Mid-North neighborhoods: Crown Hill, Highland Vicinity, Historic Meridian Park, Historic Watson Park, Mapleton-Fall Creek, and Meridian Highland.



In the fall of 2016, Kaylyn Fishers was among the first Mid-North Promise Program students to enter college, attending Ball State University.

The museum also has partnered with local and state government, law enforcement, local businesses, and neighborhood associations to improve safety, decrease crime, attract and retain local businesses and community assets, and beautify the community.

The Old National Bank Mid-North Promise Program
In 2015, the museum launched the Old National Bank Mid-North Promise Program (MNPP), an effort aimed at supporting the educational dreams and career aspirations of Mid-North families. The innovative program connects participating families with resources to help children and their parents achieve academic and career success.

The museum's full-time Family Learning Navigators connect with families, assisting them with everything from finding affordable high-quality daycare, to educational after-school programs, to workforce development training for parents. Old National Bank is an active partner, offering MNPP families workshops to improve financial literacy and fiscal incentives for creating savings accounts for children.

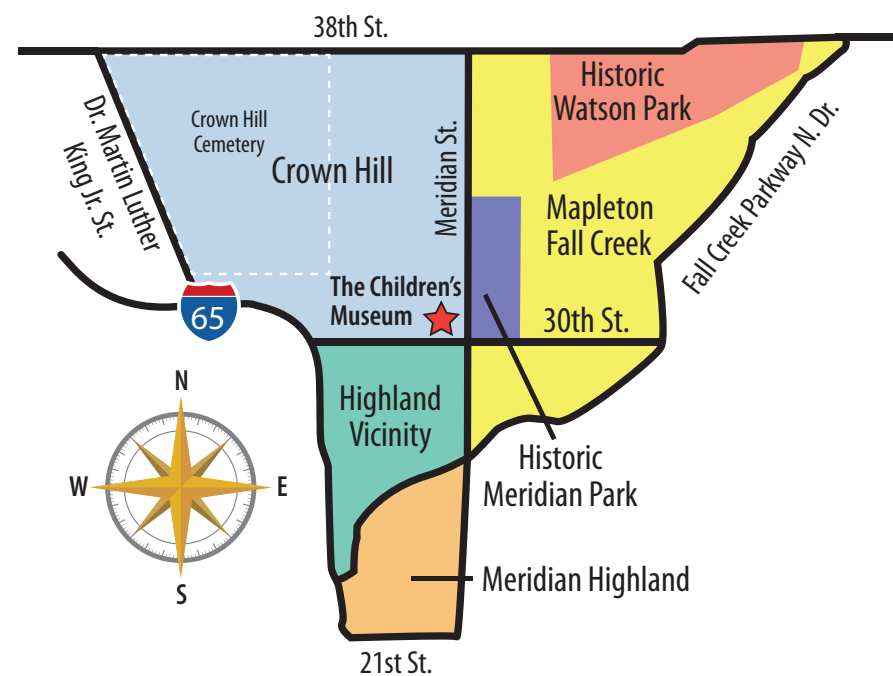
The program's marquee component is working with families with children who are eligible for Indiana's 21st-Century Scholars Program, which provides undergraduate tuition to attend public universities in Indiana. Family Learning Navigators work with students to make sure that they meet all of the requirements to maintain their eligibility, which extend beyond academic performance to include things like community service.

Since its inception, the Old National Bank Mid-North Promise Program has served more than 85 families and awarded 44 modest, last-dollar-in scholarships,



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including 29 to youths for college tuition and 14 to adults for workforce training and certification. And each year, more than 3,000 hours of staff support is provided to Mid-North families by the museum's Family Learning Navigators.

In the years leading up to college, the museum offers a variety of opportunities and services to MNPP families:

- **StarPoint** is the museum's low-cost, curriculum-based summer program for Mid-North neighborhood youths ages 6 to 12. StarPoint celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2016.
- **After-School Explorers** is a low-cost, educational after-school program for children in Grades 3 through 5 who live or attend school in the Mid-North neighborhoods.

- **The Museum Apprentice Program** (MAP) provides youths ages 13 to 18 with project-based volunteer opportunities in a real work environment.
- **The Children's Museum Neighborhood Club** provides free museum memberships to anyone living in the six Mid-North neighborhoods. Area residents also enjoy connecting with each other at the museum's free Neighborhood Nights.

The Old National Bank Mid-North Promise Program is made possible through lead gift support from Old National Bank, with major support from the Lumina Foundation, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, The Children's Museum Guild, and generous individual donors Susan and Jim Naus, the Sterrett Family Foundation, The Brougher Family Foundation, the Katz Family Foundation, Bob and Kathi Postelthwait, Jane and Steve Marmon, Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation, and Mary Ann and Gene Zink.

The Mid-North Neighborhoods Quality of Life Plan

A catalyst for the museum's Old National Bank Mid-North Promise Program was its participation on the Mid-North Neighborhoods Quality of Life Plan. In 2009, the Local Initiative Support Corporation Indianapolis (LISC) selected The Children's Museum of Indianapolis as the convening organization to bring together neighborhood groups to draft and implement a Quality of Life Plan. The goal was—and is—to make the Mid-North Neighborhoods one of the best communities in Indianapolis in which to live, work, learn, play, visit, and grow. In January 2012, after more than two years of outreach and envisioning, the community-approved and -directed Mid-North Quality of Life Plan was unveiled during a celebration at the museum.

The plan addresses aesthetics, business, development, crime and safety, education, housing, senior advocacy, and youth engagement. The plan's goals are actionable within three to five years and a community organization is responsible for each goal. Leveraging its expertise in education and community outreach, The Children's Museum took responsibility for the MNPP, one of the goals of the Quality of Life Plan's education pillar.

Neighborhood Revitalization and Illinois Place Development

In 2004, the museum adopted The Children's Museum District Plan, which called for housing rehabilitation and new construction in a concentrated area near the museum. Partners in the plan included the Near North Development Corporation and the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership.

The partnerships leveraged construction

of 59 new or rehabilitated homes. The partnership also provided home repair assistance to 62 homeowners and demolished 27 abandoned properties. In 2010, the museum supported the construction of four homes in the Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation's service area.

In addition to the work done to revitalize housing, the museum also worked to remove and redevelop neighborhood eyesores—most notably the former Winona Hospital. In the fall of 2011, the City of Indianapolis razed the Winona structure and engaged The Children's Museum to redevelop the four-acre site in a way that supported the museum and the neighborhood. In late 2013, the 50-unit Illinois Place Apartments opened on a portion of the site, developed through a partnership between the museum and TWG Development LLC.

In 2015, the museum opened the adjacent portion of the former Winona site as a neighborhood green space. In this same vein, the museum has provided both funding and volunteers for the development of green spaces or pocket parks in the Highland Vicinity, Historic Meridian Park, and Mapleton Fall Creek neighborhoods. The museum has also funded tree planting in the Crown Hill and Highland Vicinity neighborhoods.



Illinois Place Apartments opened on the site of the former Winona Hospital in December 2013.