



2023 Year in Review

110 Sycamore St., Batesville, IN
www.kidsdiscoveryfactory.org
812-932-5437

Our Mission

Kids Discovery Factory is southeastern Indiana’s children’s museum for youth ages 0-14 years old. Founded in 2009, our mission is to inspire young learners to innovate and create through exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM).



Our 2023 Team



Emili Uden
Executive Director



Vanessa Beetz
Program Director



Dawn Koch
Museum Educator



Dr. Daryl Werner
Board President



Brad Stoneking
Vice President



Brent Myers
Treasurer



Amber McGuire
Secretary



Sabrina Andonegui
Board Member



Rhastina Blessing
Board Member



Aaron Garrett
Board Member



Kinda Moore
Board Member



Sonja White
Board Member

Achievements

As we reflect on the past year at Kids Discovery Factory, we are filled with immense gratitude and pride for the extraordinary strides we have made in expanding our impact on the community, thanks in large part to your unwavering support and belief in our mission.

Last year was monumental for us in many ways. We are thrilled to share that we nearly doubled our outreach, touching the lives of over **15,500** individuals through our diverse array of hands-on learning programs. This remarkable achievement underscores our commitment to nurturing the curiosity and creativity of children, shaping them into the innovators and problem solvers of tomorrow.

Our success in 2023 was further amplified by many generous corporate and community foundations awarding KDF over \$200,000 in grants. These funds were instrumental in allowing us to expand our programs, secure a dedicated box truck for our beloved Mobile Factory program, invest in new and exciting exhibits, and lay the groundwork for the future expansion of our museum building. The planned expansion is a testament to the growing needs and aspirations of our regional community.

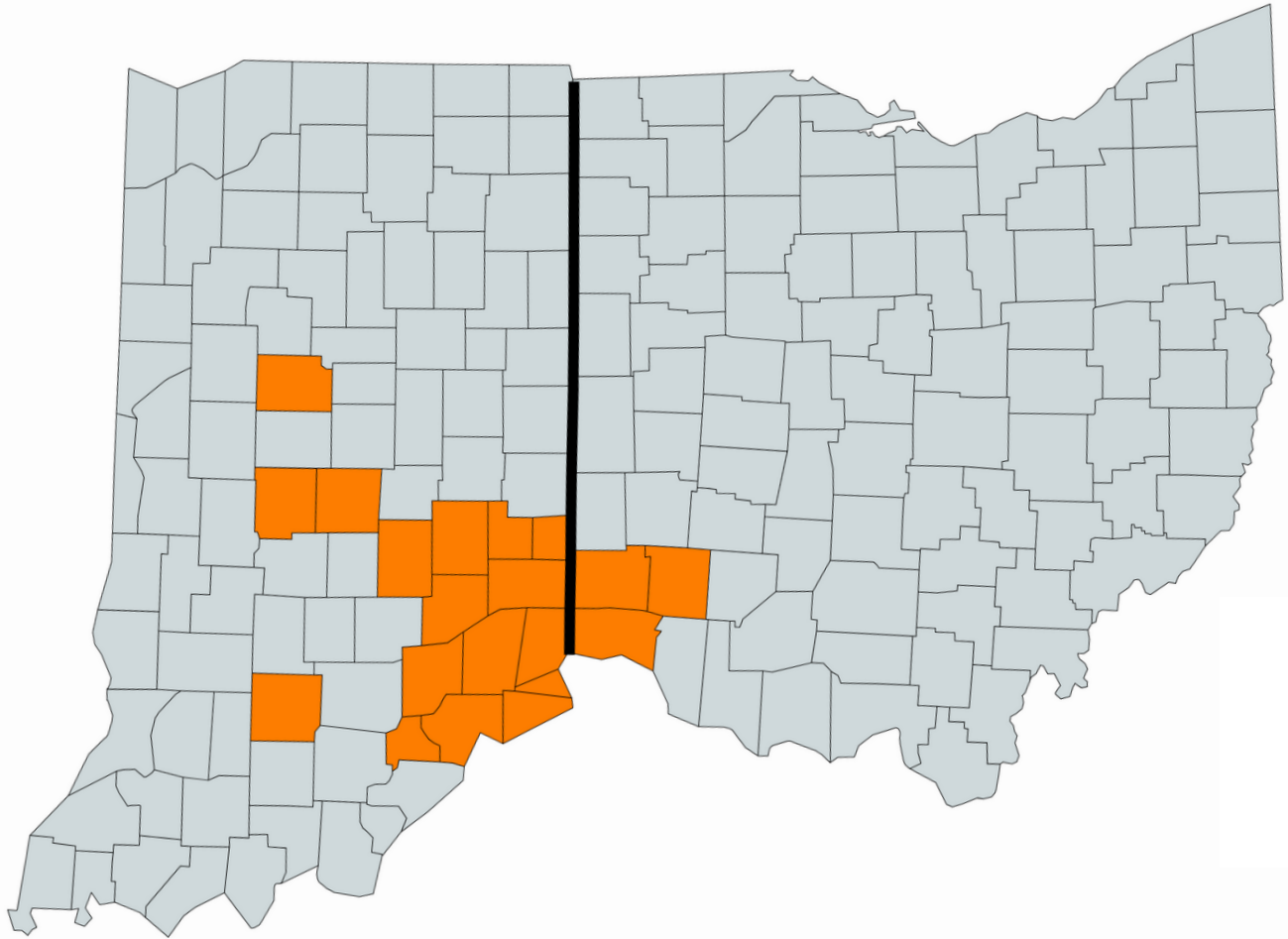
Along with these organizational milestones, our team also celebrated professional achievements. Our Executive Director, Emili Uden, successfully completed two courses through the IUPUI Lilly School of Philanthropy, and is working toward the completion of a Certificate of Fundraising. This educational advancement highlights our dedication to excellence and continuous improvement.

Additionally, our Program Director, Vanessa Beetz, received national recognition from exhibit designers Imagination Playground for her exceptional work in bringing play-based learning to over 90 schools and organizations. This accolade not only honors her individual contribution, but showcases the impact our programming is making in southeastern Indiana.

“While visiting Kids Discovery Factory, I was in awe of their many exhibits that allow children to explore and guide their own learning. Children visiting the museum get to experience engaging, hands-on learning activities that integrate STEAM concepts that promote problem solving. Our community is lucky to have access to this innovative learning space.”

-Jill Hollins, St. Louis Teacher





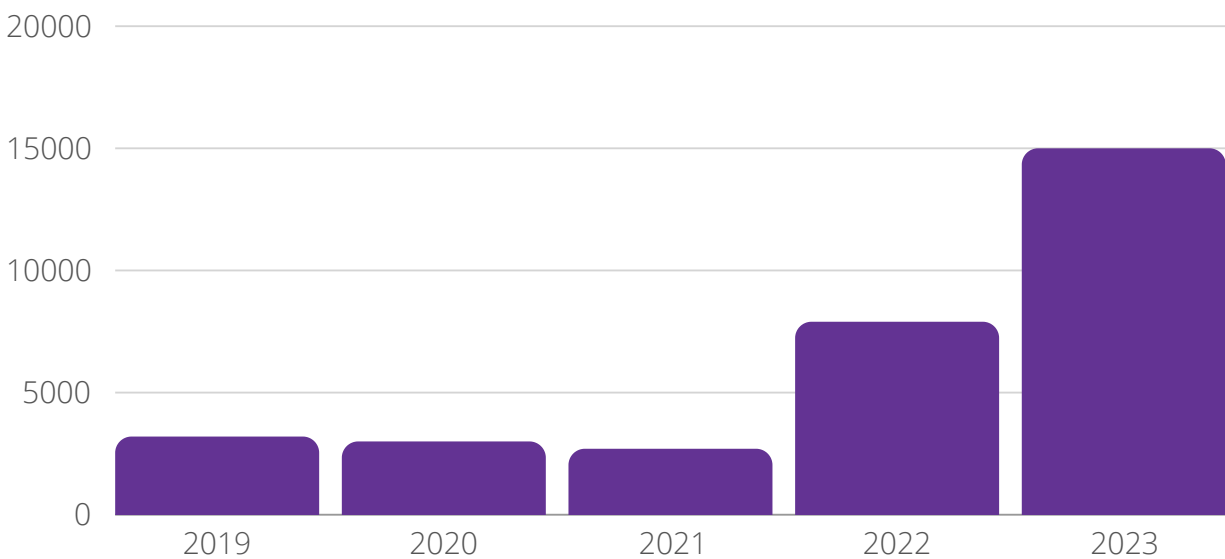
Regional Impact

While our physical location is in downtown Batesville, Kids Discovery Factory is a museum for all families in southeastern Indiana - and beyond! In fact, over 70% of the children and families we impact live outside of the 47006 zip code.

Our Mobile Factory school outreach program regularly visits eight counties in Indiana and Ohio. Museum visitors and camp students travel from 20 counties, highlighting the museum's ability to impact quality of life and education for families throughout the entire region.

A Year in Review

Every year we declare it to be the best one yet, and 2023 is no exception. Our goal was to focus on our programming in preparation for future building growth. Thanks to donors, volunteers, and local and national foundations, we more than doubled our outreach this year - reaching **15,535** people.



In addition to programming growth, we were fortunate to have more donors supporting Museums for All. This initiative allows for free admission to any family who has a SNAP or WIC EBT Card. For the first time this year, we also extended the initiative to offer reduced fees to some of our camps and classes. In 2023, 17% of our visitors benefited from this program.





In 2023, Kids Discovery Factory increased community engagement and expanded its operations. Notably, we extended our museum open hours, offering greater accessibility and more opportunities for learning. We welcomed our first intern, Hailey Hunter, who played a vital role in expanding our marketing capabilities, thereby increasing outreach and impact.

Programming highlights include:

- collaboration with Batesville High School for Week of the Young Child
- the successful launch of our inaugural Foundry Fun Day sponsored by Batesville Products
- the promotion of innovative thinking through a Rube Goldberg machine class
- launch of an afterschool STEAM Club at Batesville Intermediate School
- providing local Girl Scout troops with STEM badge opportunities.

Museum and Community Event Impact (Non Mobile Factory)

Community Events
18.8%



Camps & Classes
11.4%

Open Hours
53.6%

Private Rentals & Fieldtrips
16.2%

Our active participation in community events such as Mainopoly, the Fastest Kid in Town race at Applefest, and the introduction of our Mobile Factory truck in the Christmas parade further underscored our commitment to engaging our community in hands-on learning.

2023 Donors

Leadership Gifts, \$5,000+

Lilly Endowment, \$120,545**
Indiana Department of Education, \$63,383.05***
Honda Community Foundation, \$25,000*
PNC Foundation, \$20,900*
Decatur County Community Foundation, \$14,500*
Rising Sun Regional Foundation, \$10,000*
Margaret Palmer
Hillenbrand, Inc.
Hillenbrand Partnership Grant, \$5,600*
Fred and Jolene Rockwood Family Foundation
John H. Hillenbrand Family Foundation

Friendship Gifts, \$250-\$999

Batesville Tool & Die
Greg and Rachael Berkemeier
Beta Sigma Phi, Theta Nu
Casey's General Store
Daffodilly's Flowers and Gifts
Enneking Auto Body
Adam and Linda Fischmer
Gehring, Inc.
Genesis: Pathways to Success
Arnie and Susie Kirschner
Andy and Liz Koepf
Kroger Community Rewards
Lee's Country RV
Miller's Power Wash
Pulskamps Flooring Plus
Jim and Maureen Saner
Southeastern Insurance
Eric and Melanie Stauffer
Tudor Square Realty
United Way of Franklin County
Nathan and Lola Vandry
Voldico, LLC
Ken and Deborah Wanstrath
Weigel Funeral Home
Wuestefeld Construction

Partnership Gifts, \$1,000-\$4,999

Margaret Mary Health
Lance and Ronda Green
Daryl and Deidre Werner
Robert and Mary Ann Walsman
Ripley County Community Foundation
-Large Grant, \$3,390*
-Greener Tomorrow Grant, \$1,000*
IN MaC Micro Grant, \$2,000*

Community Gifts, \$1-\$249

Chad and Vanessa Beetz
Ray and Vicki Denewellis
Kevin and Beth Emsweller
Kathleen Gates
Curtis and Andrea Gillman
Great Planes Communications
Don and Alice Hautman
Ron and Dawn Koch
Jason Lee and Guili Zhang
Jorge Lopez and Sabrina Andonegui
Bob and Kathy Mattucci
Crystal Peters
Mike and Mary Robertson
Schmidts Bakery
Alan and Daleen Shiremen
Dennis and Valerie Stutler
Diane Uden
Mark and Emili Uden
Nathan and Natalie Wanstrath
Patrick and Christine Weigel
Mark and Darleen Wolma

*Grant funding

**The Lilly Endowment Strengthening Youth Programs Grant is a three-year grant awarded in 2023, but will impact years 2024-2026 and will support staff, programs, and capital growth.

*** Part of the 2-year IDOE Engage, Explore, Experience Grant awarded in 2022. Amount indicates portion utilized in 2023.

Whats next?

As we move forward, these accomplishments serve as both a foundation and a beacon for the path ahead. Our vision for the future is bright and ambitious, driven by our commitment to enriching the lives of southeastern Indiana children through engaging and educational experiences.

We extend our deepest gratitude to you, our valued stakeholders, for your continuous support and belief in our mission. Your contributions, whether financial, in-kind, or through volunteerism, have been pivotal in our journey thus far. We look forward to your continued partnership as we embark on another year of growth, discovery, and incredible impact.

Thank you for being part of the Kids Discovery Factory family. Here's to a future filled with more achievements, inspiration, and transformative experiences for our children and community!



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To make a donation in support of our 2024 annual fund use the QR code below or mail your check to:

**Kids Discovery Factory
PO Box 62
Batesville, IN 47006**

