



INSIDE BUSY BRAINS...

THE VOLUNTEER VOICE

Volunteer Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 1

January, 2009

WELCOME TO OUR "INSIDER" NEWSLETTER!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

Upcoming:

- Board of Directors
First Tuesday
- Marketing Committee
Second Tuesday
- Exhibit Committee
Third Tuesday

Currently scheduled events:

- February 21, 22nd- Lake Zurich Bright Horizons (times to be determined)
- March 9th- Vernon Hills YMCA
(Set-up 9:00am)
(Take down 12:00)

Two easy, everyday ways you can help build Busy Brains

•
Shop online at:
goodshop.com

•
Search online at
goodsearch.com

Every time you use these sites, they will make a donation to Busy Brains!

Happy New Year, volunteers! We are so thankful for all the time and financial contributions that each of you has dedicated to Busy Brains Children's Museum. It is exciting to reflect back on all the great leaps we have taken in 2008. It is even more exciting to think about what 2009 will bring to the museum. The Board of Directors

and Site Committee are working diligently to secure a permanent location. With the help of all of our passionate volunteers, an amazing destination will soon open its doors.

Whether you've made a monthly commitment on one of our committees, dedicated a couple hours wrapping gifts or carried/

monitored the traveling exhibits- you have grown our organization- thank you! It is our hope that this quarterly newsletter will strengthen the communication between all volunteers. Please feel free to send any thoughts - for future newsletters to kathygoers@busybrains.org
I look forward to seeing you in 2009!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A special thank you goes out to Jennifer Peterson and the Fundraising Events Committee. They planned three days of gift wrapping with Barnes and Noble book store in Vernon Hills. Not only did this event help bring in extra

money, we developed a new partnership with the book store and brought our volunteer base up to a whole new level. Many volunteers brought friends and families, plus Vernon Hills High School Honor Society and

Mundelein High School Honor Society packed our schedule with wonderful new volunteers. Thank you to those who donated their busy hours to help out a worthy cause!

COMMITTEE UPDATES

THE EXHIBITS COMMITTEE:

Over a year ago, multiple groups were met with throughout the community (educators, children and parents) and asked, "What would you like to see in your children's museum?"

The results were compiled, along with the input from Exhibit Committee members/Board of Directors and handed over to Jay Paulus of Paulus and Design.

Jay Paulus put those ideas into exhibit renderings. When presented to the

Board of Directors for the first time, excitement filled the room. The exhibit committee is now hard at work, combing through each exhibit. The committee has met to discuss half of the exhibits and is planning to meet on January 20th to wrap up the second half of exhibits.

As each exhibit is looked at-committee members are asked to think about "important elements that this exhibit will include, ways that this exhibit will be unique to Lake County and what children will learn from

the exhibits."

For detailed descriptions of ALL the committees and volunteer opportunities that Busy Brains offers, be sure to visit: <http://busybrains.org/volunteer/index.htm>

This is a great place to send friends, co-workers, etc. who are interested in being a part of this great opportunity.

Are you interested in helping with set-up/take down or monitoring of traveling exhibits? Check our regularly updated schedule at: <http://busybrains.org/documents>

“GEAR DRIVE” FUNDRAISER

This winter the museum will be hosting its second “Gear Drive.” Volunteers can help by getting their local organizations, businesses and even professionals in their area involved. Its simple! If your place of employment or your favorite restaurant would agree to help sell

paper gears for a donation of \$1 each then place the patrons name on the gear and display in a public area to help to increase awareness and funds. After approximately three weeks you check in on that organization to collect funds and/or give them some more gears if needed. After four weeks has

passed we collect everything and return them to the Busy Brains chairperson. If you are interested you can obtain a “Gear Drive” packet or as many you wish to distribute by contacting Shelley Majewski at 847-837-1744 or email at kallijake@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEER CLOSEUP: LAURA FRANZ

Laura Franz has been a passionate volunteer since March of 2005. As a loyal board member; Laura has served as secretary and is currently the board treasurer. She is co-chair of the Grants Committee and rolls up her sleeves to carry traveling exhibits and help monitor events. Here is a close up look at Laura:

Why do you enjoy volunteering for BBCM?

I enjoy the people I’ve met who are involved in the effort to open a children’s museum in Lake County. I’m also highly motivated to help bring a children’s museum closer to home for parents in Lake County!

Why do YOU think a children’s museum is important for the Lake County area?

Lake County is so rich in terms of children’s activities and family activities... with the singular exception of a children’s discovery museum. I’ve had so many hours of fun with my children at various children’s museums because I have the resources (and patience!) to drive an hour or more; there are parents and schools that do not have this option but would benefit greatly from access to a children’s museum.

Biggest accomplishment you have been a part of with BBCM?

One contribution I’ve made is my commitment ~ I’ve been one of the longest-standing members to the Board of Directors, and that stability alone helps with continuity of efforts. I’ve played various roles as a volunteer and each has been important in helping move our efforts forward.

Your favorite children’s book?

The Velveteen Rabbit ~ I love the power of children’s creativity and imagination and how it helps them ‘become real’ as they grow up ~ very similar to what we want to see happen within the walls of Busy Brains Children’s Museum!

Your favorite childhood toy?

I had a doll from the Chrissy series named Mia ~ she went through thick and thin with me for many years. I recently dug her out of storage to give to my daughter and was amazed to find myself crying with joy at seeing my old friend again.

What types of things do you enjoy doing with your family?

I have two daughters, ages seven and nine. We do a lot together...Ice



Laura Franz

skating, visiting children’s museums, sledding, swimming, playing on Club Penguin, finding new adventures together...we are very active and have a lot of fun together.

Do you have any hobbies or collection?

I consider BBCM a hobby. I also like to read when I have time. I’ve recently started to learn to play the piano, which is fun and a nice diversion.

Anything else you’d like to share with other BBCM volunteers?

Volunteering for BBCM has been a wonderful opportunity and experience for me as well as for my children who contribute when appropriate.