



NEWS for IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DREAMS FOR KIDS comes to Naperville December 22
DUPAGE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Release date: December 7, 2007

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Dreams for Kids Annual Holiday for Hope Party

Naperville, IL – Over 1,200 homeless, disabled and underprivileged kids of all abilities from the Chicago area and parents, will enter a winter wonderland at DuPage Children's Museum on Saturday, December 22 to enjoy hundreds of interactive exhibits, clowns, jugglers, face painters, crafts, games, food, and gifts for every child, thanks to the caring help of Dreams for Kids, the United States Marines and over 100 volunteers.

DuPage Children's Museum is closed to the public all day December 22nd, to support this special holiday event. The Museum will also be closed on December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

301 N. Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60540

www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org

CALL: (630) 637-8000

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Please e-mail Dreams for Kids at dreams@dreamsforkids.org if you would like to help with this event, or visit their web site at <http://www.dreamsforkids.org/public/department6.cfm> for more information. Contributions can be made online via the DFK web site or money can be sent to: Dreams for Kids, 155 N. Michigan, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601.

DREAMS FOR KIDS

Dreams for Kids has been Changing Lives...One Kid at a Time since 1989.

Our mission is to empower young people of all abilities through dynamic leadership programs and life-changing activities that inspire them to fearlessly pursue their dreams and compassionately change the world.

History

Our organization was founded by Tom Tuohy, at the request of his mother, Patricia Tuohy. Mrs. Tuohy was a single parent who dedicated her life to raising her four young children and to overcoming any adversity that would stand in the way of their personal welfare and path to independence. Having given her children the opportunity to achieve their dreams, with one simple request Mrs. Tuohy would create a legacy of dreams come true for future generations of children searching for hope.

Dreams for Kids was born on December 24, 1989, in a small room inside a homeless shelter in Englewood Illinois, in a place called Clara's House. At the moment Clara Kirk told our dozen volunteers that the fifty four kids living with her would never have known it was Christmas, a commitment was made to reach out further each and every year.

Holiday for Hope

Every year the annual party grew until it became the largest of its kind in the state of Illinois, bringing over 1,200 homeless and underprivileged kids of all abilities together for a special day of giving. Today, this celebration is a world wide event, Holiday for Hope-- the World's Largest Kids' Holiday Celebration with groups in four countries and in the majority of the states in the United States of America committed to host local celebrations of hope on December 22, 2007.

Kiss of a Dolphin

By 2006, Dreams for Kids programs impacted the lives of over 25,000 children. However, it was when the book, telling the story of the organization, was written that a movement began. In a moment frozen in time, on a sunny day in Puerto Vallarta Mexico, the very essence of unconditional compassion and acceptance was defined. It was the magic of a dolphin's spirit that would teach us the profound effect of reaching out to others. *Kiss of a Dolphin*, written by Tom Tuohy and published on November 28, 2006, tells this magical story and also the stories of inspiration and generosity which have made Dreams for Kids the organization it is today.

DUPAGE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:

DuPage Children's Museum helps kids learn how to succeed. Throughout any given day, about 1000 visitors come through the Big Red Door of the Museum and engage in three floors of hands-on activities. It is a playful, fun environment where children 6 months to 10 years old and the important adults in their lives learn and play together in thoughtfully planned "neighborhoods", with exhibits and programs designed to promote skill development in math, science and the arts--

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to prepare for a future where curiosity, creative thinking, imaginative problem solving and learning skills will be needed to interact with technology that is yet to be invented, to solve problems we can't imagine and work in new kinds of jobs that don't exist today.

DuPage Children's Museum, a top Chicago area cultural attraction, is the place *where learning comes in to play*™! The Museum is a non-profit organization and depends on donations and sponsorships for over \$4 of every \$10 of its annual budget. Your media support helps us reach families and makes a difference in the lives of thousands of children in our community. **Thank you for all you do!**

Location: 301 N. Washington Street
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone: 630-637-8000

Hours* Monday: 9 am - 1 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm
Thursday: 9 am - 8 pm
Sunday: 12 - 5 pm
*Call for special seasonal hours.

General Admission: \$7.50 per person, ages one through 59.
\$6.50 per person, ages 60 and over.
Admission is never charged to shop the Explorer Store.
Free Parking. Wheelchair Accessible. Quick walk from Naperville Metra Station.

Annual Memberships: Several types of memberships and gift memberships are available. Please visit www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org or call **630-637-8000** for more information.

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