

## Children's Museum Continues Its Mission

The dream of building a Springfield children's museum is alive and well.

The Springfield Children's Museum took another step toward bringing back a local children's museum with the recent creation of the **Children's Museum Endowment Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

"Our board is completely committed to doing whatever possible to make it happen in the short or long term," said Rachael Thomson, president of the Children's Museum Board. "We know it's a lofty goal, but we're going to make it happen. There is such a need in Springfield for something fun for kids to do indoors."

The creation of the endowment fund enables the museum to provide a stable donation destination. The museum ceased operation a few years ago and has been building momentum to reopen in a new location.

"We wanted to have money in a very safe place so donors would know their money would be handled securely and professionally," Thomson said. "This also takes a lot of the pressure off us."



The board is currently waiting on the results of a location survey that will help guide its decision on where to house the future museum. The Springfield Junior League donated the funds necessary to complete the location survey. The potential children's museum needs to be housed in a 15,000-20,000 square foot space. The museum board anticipates housing to cost between \$2.1 and \$3 million dollars.

"It's a matter of finding a partner to help with the building or increasing the dedication to raising the money for the building," Thomson said. "We have a lot of questions from potential donors about where we are going to be located."

The fundraising efforts and success will dictate when the museum can open for the public.

The museum also created the **Children's Museum Heart Exhibit Fund** thanks to a \$10,000 donation from Prairie Heart Institute.

"It's restricted money only to be used when we open and have an interactive heart exhibit," Thomson said.



Donations will be accepted for either endowment fund.

"Anybody can contribute to the endowment fund or we would be more than willing to set up more funds," Thomson said.

Another benefit to creating a fund with the Community Foundation is if the organization decides not to use the funds for the original purpose the money will remain in the community with an allocation to another local organization.