

2025 IMPACT REPORT

The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota (CMSM) is guided by a vision to ensure all children are able to experience the joy of learning through the power of play at the Museum. With the support of community partners and generous donors, CMSM facilitates a diverse collective of programs and initiatives designed to support this vision.

GATEWAY TO PLAY

Scholarship memberships are available to families experiencing barriers. CMSM also partners with community organizations that provide support to families. A "barrier" can be many things — income, language, cultural factors, ability, special need, or another special situation.



756

SCHOLARSHIP MEMBERSHIPS
provided to families experiencing barriers to the Museum. Total value: **\$127,764**



1 in 5

report an annual income of less than **\$20,000** per year



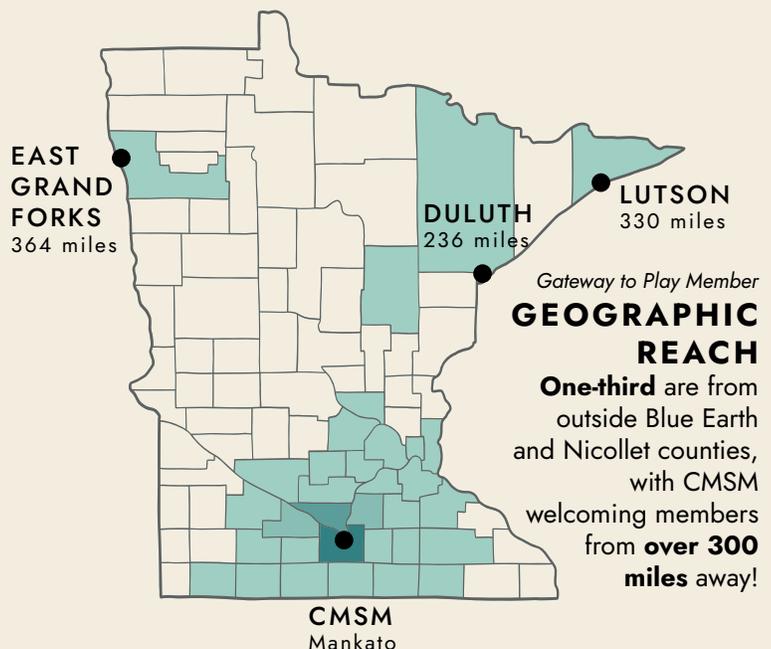
15%

speak a language other than English as their first language



15%

report having a family member with special needs



FIRSTHAND IMPACT:

"Bringing my 3 yr and 1 yr old children here provides a safe place for them to play with other children and the ever changing exhibits. My 3 yr. old asks to come here almost everyday. He loves it here. As a mom dealing with post partum issues, this program gives me a great outlet in which I'd never be able to afford. Thank You. "

FIRSTHAND IMPACT:

"I heard about this great opportunity from other foster parents and social workers in the area. To have something like this in a smaller city like Mankato is wonderful and so beneficial. Even more important is the access available to any child and family that seeks it. That is why it is imperative that this establishment is always funded."



FIRSTHAND IMPACT:

"My son, Grayson, has struggled with sensory aversions. Being in the Butterfly exhibit was really great for Grayson. He had to exhibit sensitivities and restraint where normally he would have melted down. He practiced what he has learned in therapy. I was able to apply it in a peaceful environment. We are so grateful for this Children's Museum."

IMPACT PARTNERS

The Museum proudly partners with child and family service organizations, nonprofits, and community groups across southern Minnesota. Through these valued collaborations, Impact Partners help families discover enriching Museum experiences by sharing the Gateway to Play Scholarships, Free Family Admission Passes, and connecting them with additional opportunities.

282

FAMILY PASS ADMISSIONS

provided to families free of charge through Impact Partners.

5074

SCHOOL GROUP VISITORS

provided at a discounted rate to 96 School Group visits.

Total value: \$12,820

128

FAMILY VISITS

with a Support Professional from Blue Earth County, Fernbrook Family Services, Homebase Headstart, or MAPS Early Learning.

SPECIAL EVENTS + PROGRAMS



SENSORY AWARENESS & ACCESSIBILITY PLAYTIMES

Quarterly events for children with sensory challenges or other special needs and their families to experience and enjoy the Museum free of charge at a time when there is a limited number of visitors present.

4 events with a total value of \$2,000



BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

Free admission to provided to active-duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

50 Blue Star Family admissions with a total value of \$1,924



MUSEUMS FOR ALL

CMSM provided 1438 admissions through Museums For All, which is a nationwide program offering discounted admission to qualifying individuals with a WIC, EBT, or SNAP card.

690 admissions with a total value of \$21,020