

WEDNESDAY MORNING  
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From the desk of V. Marie Martin  
Foundation Director

## *HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER FOUNDATION!*



*Families enjoyed another fun New Year's Eve at the Discovery Center.*

In late December, 2017, the FHDC Foundation was informed that it had been selected as a **recipient of the Caroline Peine Charitable Foundation/The Manhattan Fund, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee grant.** These funds will be used to install informational panels along the outdoor Interpretative Trail. The panels will contain information about the Flint Hills eco-region by utilizing adjacent natural, cultural, and historic resources. The project will foster a greater sense of **stewardship and emotional connection to the Flint Hills eco-region** through strengthening the understanding and appreciation of the unique features of our Flint Hills home for visitors and community members.

As a permanent installation in **free, accessible, outdoor, public space**, there will be almost no barriers to enjoying the trail and maximizing information delivery for all. The outdoor Interpretative Trail goes from the third-floor terrace area to ground level on the northeast side of the FHDC building. **Our thanks to the Caroline Peine Charitable Foundation for their support of our project!**

The FHDC Foundation conducted a very successful **OUR FLINT HILLS, OUR FUTURE Annual Fund Drive** during the last months of 2017! Almost \$10,000 was donated by 38 FHDC supporters. Gifts from this drive are designated for educational programs at the FHDC Discovery Center. Through your charitable gifts, this generation and those to come will be able to embrace the *place*, the *people* and the *promise* that is the Kansas Flint Hills!

**The Foundation wishes to thank everyone** who made a gift to the Annual Fund Drive. The names of those who have contributed to date are listed on the enclosed Donor Marque. If you have not sent in your gift, please know that charitable gifts are accepted year round.

**If you are ready to escape from winter**, the rainforest isn't a bad place to visit! Come and see the next of FHDC's amazing and educational traveling exhibits to be displayed in the **Tallgrass Gallery and the Mezzanine area**. **Rainforest Adventure** will be featured in the Tallgrass Gallery. Additionally, a **Butterfly House**, complete with live butterflies, will be located on the Mezzanine area from January 27 through April 29, 2018.

Mark your calendars for other traveling exhibits coming to the Discovery Center in 2018 which are: **Be The Dinosaur** – for summer, May 12- September 3; and in the fall/early winter, two exhibits, **Bison**, and **Wolves and Wild Lands**, September 15- January 13, 2019.

Did you know that traveling exhibits at the Discovery Center are **booked several years in advance**? For example the Discovery Center has exhibits already booked for **2021**. Advanced booking is a must in order to get the most popular exhibits reserved. In addition to the reservation for future exhibits, a down payment must be paid at the time the booking is made. After the down payment is made, annual payments continue until the exhibit opens. Tallgrass Gallery exhibits range in price from \$20,000 to \$60,000 each. We appreciate all the **underwriters, sponsors and visitors** who help fund and support these exhibits.

**Guest attendance at the FHDC reached 70,962 in 2017!** Guest numbers continue to grow as more people experience the opportunities that lie inside this fantastic science and history learning center that is located at one of the gateways to the Flint Hills.

**We appreciate** all of you in the Flint Hills region who support the Discovery Center through your time, talents, goodwill and community support. Thank you so much!

**Read VISTAS Memo, now online at the FHDC website**, <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/414/Vistas-Memo>. The Foundation's pages are located within the FHDC website, so be sure and take time to browse other sections of the FHDC website to keep up with all the activities happening at the Foundation and the Discovery Center.

**The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation**

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The VISTAS MEMO is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center's unique and dynamic mission.



*Our Flint Hills, Our Future Annual Fund Drive*  
**Donor Marquee**

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**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS!**

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NOTE: This Marquee was printed on January 5, 2018. If your gift is not celebrated in this Donor Marquee, it will be in the February Marquee. If your name is not shown as you wish it to appear please contact us at the email address below.

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