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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Children's Museum:

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Jack and Shirley McIntyre Foundation Makes Donation, Pledges Match

Children's Museum of Skagit County receives \$150,000 donation, and pledge to match an additional \$200,000

BURLINGTON, WA –The Children's Museum of Skagit County is thrilled to announce that we have received a generous \$150,000 donation and a further \$200,000 matching pledge from the Jack & Shirley McIntyre Foundation. Beginning March 15, 2019, and for the next 12 months, all contributions made to the Children's Museum Bigger Better Brighter Relocation Campaign will be matched by the Jack & Shirley McIntyre Foundation up to a total of \$200,000. The intention is to help the Museum raise \$550,000 and thus cover nearly half of all of the relocation costs.

"The support we have seen thus far has been so appreciated and so welcome. This remarkable contribution and pledge from the Jack & Shirley McIntyre Foundation comes at a really critical time," said Children's Museum Executive Director Cate Anderson. "Knowing that such a substantial portion of our relocation expenses are being funded and matched is a tremendous boost to our relocation campaign!"

Moving the Children's Museum of Skagit County was a decision borne of necessity and has come at a time of enormous construction costs. The cost of the buildout of our new 15,400 square foot space is estimated at nearly one million dollars. Thanks to the support of The City of Burlington, Skagit County, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Peoples Bank, service clubs, and individual donors, more than \$245,000 has been raised to date.

The Children's Museum is accepting financial support via the Museum or at any Banner Bank (formerly Skagit Bank) location. We also continue to hold our \$5 Fridays via Facebook that showcases a new item each week, to which anyone can contribute. All donors will get their name on a plaque with the item in the new museum.

A New Home

The Children's Museum is currently open in 8,400 square feet of their total 15,400 square feet at The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington. The additional 7,000 square feet will open in the summer when Phase II construction is complete. The Museum's new facility includes a larger museum store area, larger art studio and reading room, refreshed and new exhibits, Family Resource Room, party/classroom space, preschool, breast-feeding room, family restrooms, and community meeting space. Following the Phase II construction, the main exhibit space will include the 21 foot Tug Boat, a new Semi-truck, a refreshed Crane, Main Street Exhibits- Diner/Doctor's Office/Dental Office/Design Studio/Bank/Grocery Store, Train, Construction Exhibit, Theater and Sound Booth, Topographical/Augmented Reality Map, Low Sensory Room and more!

The mission of the Children's Museum of Skagit County is to promote, encourage and increase an understanding of the arts, science, culture and literature among the children, youth, families and educators in Skagit County and beyond.

The Museum directorship, staff, volunteers and supporters are excited to have developed the new space in a meaningful way to continue growing their programs and events. Enhanced exhibits and learning opportunities, improved spaces for STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to encourage critical thinking skills, imagination, creativity, and social-emotional development are all part of those plans. In addition, the Museum's successful preschool program has a larger classroom space. The Museum's scholarship program will continue to serve the needs of children and families, and their partnership with more than 35 organizations and institutions will continue to flourish in this new space.

About The Children's Museum of Skagit County

The Children's Museum of Skagit County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that opened in Mount Vernon in 2003. The mission of the Museum is to provide an interactive learning environment to promote, encourage and increase an understanding of the arts, science and culture among children, youth, families and educators in Skagit County. The Museum is open seven days a week. To learn more about our hours of operations, membership, scholarships, events, camps, classes, parties, volunteering, supporting and more, visit the Museum website at SkagitChildrensMuseum.net or call (360) 757 8888. Our new address is:

Children's Museum of Skagit County, 432 Fashion Way, Burlington, WA 98233.

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