



PLAY! Every Day!

CURIOSITY • CREATIVITY • DISCOVERY

2213 University Blvd. • Tuscaloosa, AL. 35401 • (205) 349-4235

www.chomonline.org



Mission Statement: "The Children's Hands-On Museum is a dynamic learning experience that stimulates curiosity, creativity, and shared discovery."

WELCOME to the Children's Hands-On Museum of Tuscaloosa! CHOM, where children **Explore, Create and Discover** every time they visit. When we say "hands-on" we really mean it! Learning through play is what our exhibits are all about, and you are encouraged to touch, feel, and play your way through our museum. Three floors of fun wait for families, school groups, and tourists. In 24 exhibits, CHOM offers newborns through age 13 a fabulous place just for them! Exhibits, daily programs, events, holiday celebrations, and parties all wait for you at CHOM!
Newborns or toddlers, 'twens or teens, grandparents or new parents - we house the hearts of all!

CHOM is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) community based organization. CHOM began in 1984 when a group of children in the Tuscaloosa County Schools joined dedicated adults working to create a children's museum. They gained support from the community, and in 1986 CHOM opened in a temporary location on the University of Alabama campus. In 1988 with help from a generous donor CHOM was able to obtain our own building in downtown Tuscaloosa where we remain today.

VISIT soon! Join over 69,000 visitors each year who know we're the BEST for family fun! We're 30 years old and growing better every day. **Learn why thousands of families, students, teachers, church programs, and after school camps think we offer the BEST field trips!**

Visit our website to learn more about us, our programs, exhibits, and our strong community partners at www.chomonline.org

HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9am - 5pm
Friday: 9am - 7:30pm
Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Closed on Sundays and major holidays.

ADMISSION

Under 3 years: \$6
3 - 59 years: \$9
60 years and older: \$7
Military Discount: \$1 off each admission with purchaser's current Military ID.
Children under 1 year: FREE
Members & Pass Holders: FREE

CHOM offers thousands of dollars in admission discounts to other community agencies who serve children and families each year. Although unable to provide discounts and support for the increasing number of requests received, we make every effort to assist as much as possible. Through specific grants we provide discounted and free Field Trip admissions enabling thousands of students to experience valuable Alabama curriculum specific field trips who would otherwise be unable to participate. Our website includes information on grant field trip programs.

MEMBERSHIP

Museum Membership is essential to our financial foundation, providing income to ensure the continuation of our wonderful museum. Members benefit from 12 months of FREE general admission, discounts on birthday parties and gift shop purchases, and reduced or free admission to special public events. Members also enjoy optional Add-A-Guest Passes and receive advance notice of all there is to experience at CHOM.

GO! PASSES

GO! Passes offer four months of free general admission beginning on date of purchase. It's a perfect way to save money while trying us out, and offers an option to upgrade to membership at the end of the Pass period.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering at CHOM is a great way to support the museum and its mission while also having fun! CHOM volunteers are high school and college students, retirees, homemakers, and business people. Volunteers assist with programming, special events, and more! Schedules are flexible and training is provided. School and civic groups, interns, work study students, and an outstanding Teen Leadership Program make volunteering at CHOM the BEST experience of all! Teen Leaders ages 14 - 18 apply, interview, and train to be part of our volunteer program, joining college students and adults who assist us in making visits to CHOM memorable. Give your time to CHOM!

EDUCATION

CHOM has worked closely with our school systems since opening in 1984 and is recognized for the educational contributions we make. CHOM is committed to our long standing tradition of delivering educational services and programs recognized for excellence throughout Alabama and Mississippi. All programs are directly correlated to required elementary school curriculum for the State of Alabama, with Course of Study information, resource support, teacher training, and Pre-K field trips delivered in schools as part of our outreach efforts.

FUNDRAISING

9th ANNUAL RUBBER DUCK DERBY
NEW Date! NEW Fun! BIGGER and BETTER!
MARCH 29, 2015

Our Annual Rubber Duck Derby is one spectacular day of family fun! Along with the exciting rubber duck races is the "Ducks in a Row" Carnival! Booth games with prizes for the kids to enjoy, a Best Dressed Duckling Contest, carnival style snacks, great DJ dance music and a chance to win big money... all while supporting CHOM! ADOPT a DUCK! Each \$5 ticket includes entry to the event and game tickets for children! Individual and corporate sponsorships make this event the best family fun around! Proceeds support public programs, exhibits, school programs and special events for children and families. Visit websites for photos of last year's Derby!
www.duckracetuscaloosa.org • www.chomonline.org

Registered 501 (c) (3) 63-0886689

DONOR SUPPORT

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are able to offer children the very best in hands-on learning through play only with assistance and support from the many individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who contribute tax deductible gifts to CHOM.

Partnerships, sponsorships, and contributions enable us to continue to provide exciting opportunities for the thousands of families and children who visit each year. CHOM serves more than 69,000 visitors each year, with over 15,000 students taking part in educational curriculum specific field trips. CHOM welcomes children of all ages. If you'd like to talk about donations to CHOM, exhibit support, or fundraising efforts, contact Charlotte Gibson for Development and Gifts. We welcome your tax deductible contributions and sponsorship. No donation is too small to matter!

ANNUAL FUND

CHOM offers unequaled opportunities to learn through play in unique hands-on exhibits, outreach visits to community and schools, curriculum specific field trips for students and teachers, as well as through popular events and public programs throughout the year, providing excitement and variety.

One of our largest challenges is not only maintaining our 24,000 square foot building with its 24 permanent exhibits, classrooms, party rooms, meeting rooms and gallery, but also updating and adding new exhibits and fun so all experiences continue to be exciting and innovative. Curiosity, Creativity and Discovery are the core of all that we do for children. Annual gifts make all of this possible. Behind the scenes costs have always been very real and necessary, but never more so than now. Annual gifts enable us to continue to offer the very best to our children. Contact Charlotte Gibson, Executive Director .
Consider making a tax deductible gift to our Annual Fund campaign!

ENDOWMENT TRUST

Our Endowment Fund is the foundation that provides financial security for our future. We work not only to provide current, exciting hands-on learning for children, families and students, but for continued growth and excellence as a museum. We have long been committed to providing for the future and actively work to be sure that our Endowment Fund remains solid. Our Endowment Fund is the bedrock of our museum, ensuring that we will be here for generations to come even in the midst of change and challenge.

EXHIBIT or PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

New exhibits, exhibit additions and upgrades, traveling exhibits, and new programs for families help us to meet continuing challenges to provide all that children expect and need. If you'd like to assist us in our constant efforts to keep CHOM new, give us a call! There are many opportunities and exciting new exhibits that we'd love to talk with you about! With many types of sponsorships, ranging from single programs to entire yearly schedules, we're sure to have the right match for your support. Sponsors are crucial to our success and continued operations - we welcome you as a partner!

MEMORIALS and HONORARIUMS

How wonderful it is to make a tax deductible gift that truly impacts the world in a positive way. Making a tax deductible Memorial or Honorarium to CHOM gives you the chance to recognize the important people whose lives have touched you, and gifts help us to make the lives of children better.

From your heart to the hearts of children, what could be better?

BUY A BRICK! PAVE THE WAY TO CHOM!

The Children's Hands-On Museum has a sidewalk of engraved pavers leading right to our front door to celebrate, thank, or memorialize special people in your life and people who believe in CHOM and our mission of learning through play. CHOM bricks make a wonderful gift for Christmas, birthdays, new additions to the family, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any special occasion. There is no better way to memorialize or honor a loved one than a paver to CHOM and its mission of lifelong learning through play!



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