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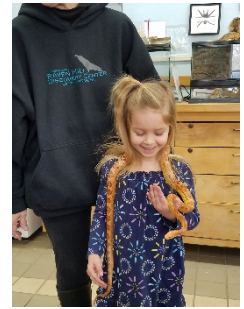
*Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.*

**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: friends and family everywhere  
From: Cheri and Raven Hill  
Date: May 8, 2020  
Re: Update

Raven Hill continues to shelter in place. We are busy behind the scenes, doing some cleaning and maintenance. We are in our 7<sup>th</sup> week of Home Learning Opportunities on Facebook and the web, plus we now have both a Photo and History Journal page on the website. Check them all out! There's a new one at least every weekday, sometimes on weekends!

Today, was our first attempt at Zoom. Checkers, the corn snake and I were invited to present to Boyne Falls fourth and fifth graders via Zoom. I talked with 19 students and 4 teachers about making good observations and then we observed Checkers. We talked about observations, like color, size, shape, parts, patterns, movement, etc. Hope the kids enjoyed it. I know I did. It was good to get back "into the classroom." Hope to be able to do it more often, now that we have had the experience!



As I have said, we are working towards reopening next spring. It is a challenge to figure out how to be hands-on and yet enforce social distancing and deep cleaning between uses of the musical instruments, small toys and other "exhibits" in the main museum room. Maybe we are only open by appointment? Maybe the skittles pieces are checked out at the front desk, used and brought back to be sanitized before being reused? Who knows! We have downsized the animals by three (rat snake and two pythons rehomed) and may possibly be able to rehome the turtles and lizards for the summer or until we reopen. Again, it is a question of how to make things work with distancing & cleanliness. We are working on exhibits, events and programs for 2021 and also trying to figure out how to cover the basic expenses of \$93,000 for the next 12 months with an expected income loss of \$122,000 over the same 12 months, due to no school field trips, summer visitors, discovery camps and outreach revenues. Your ideas are welcome.

I want to share this, because I really like it. **John O'Leary**, opinion contributor for USA Today, said "the pandemic is a chance for us to focus on what truly matters.....The pandemic has forced us to slow down and become introspective....it (this pandemic) reminds us how fragile life is, as well as the extraordinary gift that life is.....it (COVID-19) has given us a season to reevaluate what we once knew to be important and to rediscover what matters most." Raven Hill is thinking positively and taking advantage of this gift of time to do just that: slow down, re-evaluate and re-discover.

Thinking of you all today. Slow down, re-evaluate, re-discover and think positive thoughts. Reach out to someone every day during these trying times. Stay safe, everyone, and call me any time: 231.675.6025. I would love to hear your voice and learn how you are doing.

Stay safe and well, Cheri