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Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, 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 29, 2021
Re: Weekly Update

Greetings Everyone!

This Monday, May 31, 2021, is Memorial Day. It is a time for us to observe America's history and remember our fallen troops for their bravery and courage. This weekend is also a time for Raven Hill to honor those who have supported us in preparation for our April 17th reopening. For thirty years, your support for Raven Hill has been crucial to the Center's growth and success. This Memorial Day weekend, we want to say thank you to everyone. Your generosity has been immeasurable, as evidenced below.

Recently Raven Hill volunteers enjoyed another 6' lunch. Monday, May 10th, many of our regular volunteers and some new ones joined together for some much needed socializing. The cool weather forced us into the Great Room, but everyone enjoyed catching up with one another. The volunteers are looking forward to helping out this summer.



Raven Hill volunteers held their first 6' lunch outdoors last September. At our second luncheon, which occurred this May, everyone was so excited to see each other, we forgot to take pictures! Action shots of our volunteers coming soon! Stay tuned!

Another group of volunteers is the Raven Hill Board of Directors. They work hard to make sure that the Center meets its mission of connecting science, history and the arts for all ages. This month, Steve Roote stepped down as Board Chair. We thank him for his five years of service. New officers are Darrell Jacob and Holly Sasso, Co-chairs; Andrea Seese, Secretary and Debbie Bishop, Treasurer. They are just beginning to review, revise and update our Strategic Plan that will guide Raven Hill for the next five years.



The Watershed Model is now ready and waiting for a hot sunny day, when visitors can't resist dipping their toes in the cool water! Thanks, David!

A third group that warrants ongoing recognition are the Center's "maintenance crew". These are the "go-to" people for anything that needs to be fixed, cleaned, sorted, organized or updated. Ed and Diane Strzelinski installed Plexiglas to cover the Periodic Table of the Elements and the bookcases in Schoolhouse to help decrease cleaning time during the pandemic. Jock Rader replaced all of the batteries in our smoke alarms. Ed & Pat May continue to make mouse runs to keep the snakes happy. Jean VanDam spends a couple hours every week, watering trees or cleaning out the storeroom or doing anything that needs doing. David Austin of Waterpaws brought his team out to clean and restart the watershed model that he donated in 2018 for the Smithsonian **Water/Ways** exhibit.



The Taxonomic (Taxi) Trail was established in 2006. Fifteen years later, new signs show how the different tree families can be used for food, medicine, shelter, etc. Get your exercise, while you read and learn!



These golf carts are the Center's work horses AND they sure are fun to drive around! Thanks, Boyne Mountain.

Boyne Mountain has graciously maintained our golf carts over the winter for several years now. This year they donated new batteries for one of our solar golf carts. Twenty-three new Taxi Trail signs, designed by Sally Brayton, are now posted, thanks to Joel VanRoekel. All of these selfless actions added together create a very special experience for our visitors.

As they have for years, the Alanson Agri-Science class, taught by Donna Magill,

spent a day helping out at Raven Hill. This year, they tackled the Medicinal Gardens. They cleaned out all sixteen beds, added new topsoil and readied them to receive new plantings. Now, each plot, such as the sore muscle, stomach flu and heart care, will contain only one plant traditionally used as medicine for a particular ailment. The group also prepared the Three Sisters (science, history & art) Gardens for the Discovery Campers to plant and maintain this summer. Thanks to their work, all the gardens will be at their best for summer visitors.



Twelve students plus one teacher showed strength and endurance, as they readied the Medicinal Gardens for replanting. Their reward: pizza for lunch and a chance to relax and visit the pond.

Finally, there are those who help financially. Recent gifts from the Fred Glazier estate, The Ted & Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation and the Frederick & Barbara

Malpass Family Fund are much appreciated. Thanks also for grants awarded by Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and other state and local foundations over the past 29 years. Thanks also to every one of the members, donors, businesses and organizations, who believe in Raven Hill Discovery Center's mission and help out with ongoing support. We wouldn't be here without you.

Author, Melody Beattie, said, "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." Thank you, everyone, for being part of Raven Hill as it was, is and will be.



Raven Hill is lucky to have local, state & national support.

Raven Hill has re-opened! Visitors should always check in at the Main Museum first. Appointments for indoors can be made in advance. No appointment? No problem! Walk-ins are welcome! You can reserve a return time at check in, explore the outdoors, and then come inside to see some exciting new exhibits and a few of the old hands-on favorites! Regular hours are noon to 4pm on Saturdays, 2pm to 4pm on Sundays & 10am to 4pm weekdays. Email info@miravenhill.org or call 231.536.3369 to make reservations. COVID policies remain in place for the time being. We ask everyone to wear masks, socially distance & wash their hands.



Thank you all for your help and support. Please know that you are much appreciated.

Cheri

PS – Ready? Set? Dig! You are invited to a **WORK BEE** ("an occasion when volunteers come together to carry out communal work") AT RAVEN HILL TO INSTALL LEARNING STATIONS ON THE NEW CONNECTIONS TRAIL—Wear boots, bring gloves and be ready to dig post holes, mix cement, hold levels, plant, rake and whatever needs to be done. **Tentative installation date**—Saturday, June 12th at 10am, pending weather conditions and delivery of equipment & stations! **Alternate date:** June 19th. Same time, same task! Pizza provided for lunch! Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to volunteer.