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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: October 17, 2020
Re: News from Raven Hill!



NO replacement for this guy, if he is threatened and loses his tail!

Meet our most recent donation to the Center. Newly named “Sandy Sticker”, a crested gecko was donated this week and is looking forward to greeting visitors, when Raven Hill officially opens next spring or whenever the pandemic allows. Native to New Caledonia, a French territory in the southwest Pacific Ocean, the crested gecko is one of many unique animals, especially birds and plants, found there. This little cutie is an omnivore, consuming both insects and fruits. It loves to climb and can live 10 to 20 years! We look forward to learning more about our new friend.

Monday was a busy day at Raven Hill. The parking lot looked like the Center was open

for business and it was in a sense! 4Front Credit Union staffers spent the day working at the Center. Most of their time was spent in the Evolving Technology (ET) Building, where they spread out, cleaning, organizing and inventorying artifacts. After lunch, they helped cover the shuffleboard court for the winter.



For the first time in months, the parking lot at Raven Hill was full! Staff from 4Front Credit Union donated a day of their time to help at the Center.



The plastic acts as a sail even in the slightest wind. Ten people helping made a world of difference!



4Front volunteers take time out for lunch!



Dr. Brie VanDam's younger self gains confidence at Raven Hill.

I am enclosing a link to a film that you might find interesting. It deals with protecting public lands, which is just one part of slowing manmade climate change. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGjnIG7puzY>

One of Raven Hill's "protégés" met several people involved in this movie. Brie VanDam, former student visitor and volunteer shares this about her years at the Center: "One of my favorite places at Raven Hill was the animal room. I loved to spend time there learning about the snakes, letting the ferrets crawl up my sleeves, talking to the birds, and letting the tarantula walk across my palm. While I didn't end up as a zoologist like my 11-year-old self imagined, I did recently receive my PhD in atmospheric chemistry. I credit the time I spent at Raven Hill as having a significant influence on my development as a scientist: learning to always ask questions, to look at the simple things with curiosity and amazement, and to have confidence in my own intelligence as a woman in a discipline still dominated by men."

Brie has been working with Bernadette (in the movie linked above) on a project for the Gwich'in Steering Committee. The report is on the Arctic Indigenous Climate Summit held last summer in 2019 and includes Indigenous knowledge shared at the event, as well as environmental data from interior Alaska. Brie attended the summit, and met many of the people involved in the movie. It's a pretty powerful documentary! I hope you can find the time to watch it.

With bated breath, Raven Hill has been waiting since June to hear the list of grants awarded by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts. This week, the Governor of Michigan approved and signed the state budget. MCACA then moved forward with their FY21 funding process and granted the awards, which were announced on Thursday October 15th. The Center received a grant of \$12,500 for operational support. The Center has received an award every year, since 2001.



The Treehouse, Jurassic Park, Music Garden, Ancient World and many other exhibits exist at Raven Hill, thanks to these folks.

A thought from author, Alison Kay, "I think optimism and courage are (both) needed more than ever, as we shape our new normal." I can't agree more, so think positive thoughts and be brave. Stay home and stay safe, as much as you can. Wear that mask proudly. Watch your distance. Wash your hands thoroughly and often.

Feel free to email me anytime at info@miravenhill.org or you can text or call my cell—231.675.6025. I love to hear from you!

Until we meet again,

Cherí