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Wonderscope Begins New Era with New Name

KANSAS CITY, MO (SEPTEMBER 24, 2020) Today, community leaders announced the Regnier Family Wonderscope Children's Museum as the new name for Kanas City's only children's museum completely dedicated to STEAM concepts for young children. The announcement included the unveiling of new signage and colorful brand.

"This important change reflects the children's museum historic roots in Kansas City and the longtime commitment, passion and support from the Regnier family," said Aaron Siders, board chair.

More than 30 years ago, Vic and Helen Regnier made their first of many generous contributions to the children's museum by donating a permanent home. In 1998, Wonderscope moved to the former Flint Elementary School building after Mr. Regnier, owner of Vic Regnier Builders, purchased the vacant site. The school building located in Shawnee, Kan., served as Wonderscope's home for over three decades.

"My parents recognized the impact that a children's museum could have on children's growth and development," said Bob Regnier.

The Regnier's generous act opened up a new world of possibilities for Wonderscope. Over the years, thousands of children have enjoyed the many programs and activities at Wonderscope and learning through the unique power of play.

Three generations of Regnier family members have provided the museum unwavering leadership and support. Vic and Helen's children, Bob, Cathy and Victor, have been actively involved and provided assistance throughout the years. Kate (Regnier) Bender, Vic and Helen's granddaughter, served on the board of directors for many years.

In 2019 when Wonderscope launched a capital campaign for the new building at Red Bridge Shopping Center, Bob Regnier, was named Chair of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. The Regnier Family Foundation has donated critical seed money to launch the campaign. The Regnier Family Foundation has contributed the lead gift to the \$16 million capital campaign. It is the largest individual donation in the museum's history.

"The depth of our appreciation is beyond words," said Roxane Hill, executive director. "The Regnier family has been with us every step of the way, never wavering from their support and leadership."

About Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City

Founded in 1989, Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City provides imaginative, experiential STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) exhibits and programs for ages 8 and younger, their parents, and educators from across the KC metro area. Its mission is to spark a lifelong love of learning through the power of play. To learn more, visit <u>Wonderscope.org</u> or follow on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, or <u>Twitter</u>.

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