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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM GALA RAISES \$101,000

PHOENIX – The Children's Museum of Phoenix (CMoP) soared to exciting heights last weekend with their **4th Annual A Family Affair Gala**, presented by the Friends of the Children's Museum of Phoenix. At 4 p.m., Saturday, October 14th, Cutter Aviation Hangar at Sky Harbor Airport boarded 400+ adults and children for a "travel around the world" flight and **raised \$101,000 for the museum**. The Cutter Hangar was transformed into a place of excitement and anticipation with travel themed decorations, activities, and auction items aplenty.

The trip was highlighted by numerous children's activities, including making their own suitcases (small wooden boxes decorated any way they chose), rain sticks, paper planes, door hangars and making money with CMoP's coin rubbing exhibit, a new prototype for the museum. Children of all ages laughed and played with "Cloud Tossing", another museum prototype, where bright blue balloons and gold crescent moons hung mid air for children to toss around at will.

Adults delighted bidding on over 85 silent auction items plus two amazing, 1 in 52 chance raffle prizes – a tropical one-week getaway to Hawaii and a magnificent diamond pendant from Moore & More Jewelry, valued at over \$6,000.

Bedouin Tribe belly dancers and the Phoenix Scottish Pipe Band provided international entertainment before dinner. Once seated, passengers were entertained with **true Irish "clog" dancing by dancers from Galligher School of Irish Dance and beautiful flamenco dancing from Un Corazón Flamenco, all of which was performed in the round** – so there were no bad seats to be had! After the professional dancers finished, dozens of children spontaneously rushed the stage to dance wildly to the rock

and roll beat of the locally famous **4 Car Garage Band**, which included **Louie Moses of local marketing firm Moses Anshell on drums, and Drs. Michael Kassenbrock, Mike Lucero, Dave Thorpe and Greg White**. One attendee was overheard saying “it looks like a toddler mosh pit!”

Dessert consisted of scrumptious cheesecake generously donated by Kelly Jelly’s World Famous Cheesecakes with an ice cream bar for the kids where they could scoop their own toppings onto their dessert.

More than 20 organizations and community members sponsored the event at different levels and more than 100 organizations and community members donated items and/or services to the auction. Over 50 community members volunteered their services the night of the event, including 11 flight attendants from Southwest Airlines who checked attendees in.

Event Chair Marlene Galan Woods said, “This was truly an exciting event for children and adults alike. There are so many people that made this event such a success – the people who chaired and worked on our committees, volunteers, donors, sponsors and, of course, the attendees. I am so grateful to the community for having the vision to see that a children’s museum is essential to our community.”

Deb Gilpin, President/CEO of CMoP, continued, “We are delighted with and extremely grateful for the level of support that the community continues to give us as we take these last remaining steps on our journey that is the opening of the Children’s Museum of Phoenix late next year. We are closer to our destination every day thanks to the community’s generosity.”

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The Children’s Museum of Phoenix is a 501(c) (3) non-profit dedicated to opening a children’s museum that will engage the minds, muscles and imaginations of children and the adults who care about them. The museum will focus on learning through play, with emphasis on early childhood education and school-readiness.

CMoP will be housed in what is now the historic Monroe School at 7th Street and Van Buren in downtown Phoenix. Groundbreaking on the site was held in April of this year marking the beginning of the building’s restoration and renovation. For more information about the Children’s Museum visit www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.