From cars to smartphones, from the energy that lights our homes to the clothes we wear and the food we eat, advances in science are transforming our world at a dizzying pace. Even so, our children will live with new technologies that today we can only imagine. Here at the Sciencenter, we have spent the past 32 years building a place where kids find joy and relevance in science and get hooked on the excitement of discovery. Our hope is that these experiences will lead to empowered citizens, able to think critically and take on the challenges that await them at every level: individual, community, and global.

We are deeply immersed in a multi-year campaign, called Curious. Confident. Inspired., to reimagine our exhibits, programs, facilities, and relationship with our community. We are renovating or replacing nearly all of our exhibits—indoors and out. We are expanding our educational programming and embarking on some ambitious infrastructure projects to support all of our educational efforts. We are making the Sciencenter accessible to all members of our community in new ways.

Thank you for all you do to make the Sciencenter an essential part of our local, national, and international communities. We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of our staff, volunteers, and members. We couldn’t do it without your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Charlie Trautmann Helene Schember
Executive Director Chair, Board of Trustees

Three initiatives to empower every young person to use science in shaping a better future.

LEARNING FAMILIES
The needs of children differ profoundly at each developmental stage, so we design our exhibits and programs carefully to maximize learning at each stage, and join the support of the adults who can leverage our efforts. Weekly family workshops help excite interest in our young learners and provide parents with the tools and support systems to help them better engage with their children.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SCIENCE
The Sciencenter is fostering a new generation of youth empowered to address the global challenges of our times. Through targeted, age-appropriate programs and exhibits, the Sciencenter inspires and supports children in pursuing healthier, better lives and in making better decisions for their futures, ranging from personal choices about health and education to global choices on food, water, and energy.
Our vision is a community in which every child is empowered to use science in shaping a better future.

To make this vision a reality, we have recently embarked on an ambitious campaign to ensure that our children have opportunities to engage with science in ways that spark the imagination and encourage them to explore the world around them.

$3.8 Million – The Sciencenter Campaign Goal

- Expanded Programs
  - New Exhibit Experiences
    - $1,360,000
  - Growing Facilities
    - $730,000
  - Sustainability Endowment
    - $225,000

- Young Scientists
  - Earliest Explorers (AGES 0-5)
    - New outdoor curiosity playground
    - Expanded early education area with double the space for exhibits and activities
    - New hands-on exhibits that focus on sensory learning, motor skills, and discovery
    - Workshops for parents and teachers on nurturing scientific exploration
  - Young Scientists (AGES 5-11)
    - 4 new galleries filled with new exhibits on Ocean Science, Sustainability, Health, and NY Native Animals
    - 24 new and expanded exhibits on light, sound, technology, climate, and more
    - New science-themed 18-hole mini-golf course
    - Expanded access for low income families
    - Expansion of the Sagan Planet Walk, including the first permanent exhibit on the Moon
    - Infrastructure: IT upgrades and facilities improvements
  - Future Science Leaders (AGES 11-14)
    - The expansion of our Future Science Leaders program (including dedicated FSL space) lets kids build their own skills while learning to help others through:
      - Mentoring: guiding younger children in science exploration
      - Citizen Science: leading guests in scientific experiments and exploration
      - New Media: using technology to connect others with science
      - Exhibits: learning the tools and trade of exhibit building

CAMPAIGN DONORS

As of May 2015

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If we have made any inadvertent errors or omissions in the preparation of this donor list, please accept our apologies and let us know.

CAMPBELL CRANSTON The Sciencenter Campaign

* indicates grant award
+ indicates donor-directed gifts
^ indicates gifts to permanent endowment
• indicates inkind gifts
> deceased

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the effect of the campaign is already being felt across our region. We hope you will join us in building the next generation of leaders who will help to shape and serve a better future.
EARLY EXPLORERS

This initiative supports the curiosity and creativity of early learners ages 0-5, through programming, parent workshops, preschool science curriculum, and research.

Expanded Early Education Programming

The Early Explorers programs help children reach their potential by developing good learning habits early in life. We enlist parents, preschool teachers, and other caregivers through weekly parent-child workshops; we’ve added an “itty bitty scientist” camp session for children entering kindergarten to grade 1; and we provide workshops and professional development for families and teachers of Head Start.

Curiosity Corner Programming

Focused on our youngest guests, the Curiosity Corner features twice-weekly Story Time programs for children 4 and under. Activities might include hearing the story *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle and making a spider web. In the past year, programs in the Curiosity Corner have drawn 1,855 children, with their popularity growing as families make them a regular engagement.

Programs at the Downtown Ithaca Children’s Center

Each week, a Sciencenter educator led lessons for preschool children at DICC that featured both a story and an accompanying science-related activity. In one session, children read *The Wind Blew* and then engaged in a fun exercise that featured blowing on paint with straws.

Teacher Professional Development

Sciencenter staff members hosted professional development workshops for teachers of young children. We shared research on how children learn and ways to engage children in science learning. Teachers from Tompkins Community Action participated in monthly workshops.

Parent-Child Workshops

In the fall, we launched Science Together for parents and caregivers with their young children. These twice-weekly programs shared science skills and hands-on activities with 436 adults and 443 children. These activities empower parents to work with their children as young scientists by making observations using their senses, like playing with flubber and learning about its texture and properties. Twice monthly, we also hold family science workshops at local Head Start sites.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS

To build confidence and foster the collaborative spirit of children ages 5-11, this initiative emphasizes open-ended exhibit experiences and reimagined educational programs and activities.

2014-2015 EXHIBITIONS

**Discovery Space**

The Discovery Space offers families a quiet place where they can explore the world of science through activity kits and games. Guests investigate a wide variety of science topics including magnets, fossils, and electricity. In 2014, 13,864 guests participated in activities in the Discovery Space.

**Science Playground**

Kids enjoy science outside with hands-on exhibits that let them climb and hang, make music, investigate bubbles, and bounce on the world’s ONLY Kevlar Suspension Bridge.

**NanoDays**

862 guests and 112 volunteers participated in NanoDays this year. We celebrated with special hands-on activities about nanotechnology, the smallest BIG idea in science.

**Showtime! and Interactive Presentations**

More than 4,000 guests experienced science in action through weekly interactive amphitheater programs on topics such as energy robotics, physics, tornadoes, chemistry, light, liquid nitrogen, and insects and reptiles, to name just a few.

**Field Trip Programs**

Our interactive educational programs offer an array of topics such as air, light and sound waves, simple machines, magnets, and matter, each including hands-on exhibits as a collaborative component and an open-ended challenge. 2,312 students participated in educational programs during field trips in 2014.

**Sponsored Field Trips**

In partnership with* Kids Discover the Trail!* 616 students participated in field trips to the Sciencenter. Additionally, 188 2nd grade students in Tompkins County and in the City of Cortland took a sponsored field trip to the Sciencenter. Students learned about renewable energy and participated in an engineering challenge to build their own windmills, or learned about our watershed and experienced our live animal Touch Tank.

**Summer Camp**

Sciencenter Summer Camp welcomed almost 200 campers to our one- and two-week sessions during 2014. Campers explored space, learned about renewable energy and participated in an engineering challenge to build their own windmills, or learned about our watershed and experienced our live animal Touch Tank.

IN THE COMMUNITY

**Afterschool Enrichment**

The Sciencenter provided hands-on science activities after school to 310 students at local elementary schools.

**Starlab Outreach**

Using Starlab, our portable planetarium, we provided programs for 287 children at Romulus and Enfield Elementary Schools and Dryden High School.
In 2014, FSL participants led more than 1,129 guests in activities. 200 6th grade students visited the Sciencenter to explore programming, exhibits, and technology. Back at school, they developed hands-on activities and videos to communicate scientific concepts from their 6th grade science class. 37 of these 6th graders returned to share their activities with Sciencenter guests at a Showtime!.

Mentoring
Serving as Counselors-in-Training (CIT), FSL participants mentor our summer science campers, present Touch Tank programs for campers, and lead hands-on activities with guests.

New Media
FSL participants filmed interviews with research scientists and created stop-motion videos showing hands-on activities linked to the research. They also produced newsletters and videos to share the highlights of summer camp with families.

Citizen Science
Trained by local experts from the Community Science Institute and the Finger Lakes Institute, FSL participants brought Sciencenter guests to nearby Cascadilla Creek to collect data on water chemistry and life in the creek. Back at the Sciencenter, they helped guests use microscopes to identify the organisms they had discovered. They then communicated the findings from their research to Sciencenter guests at a Showtime!.

Empowerment Through Science: High School and Beyond
Last year, 154 high school and college students led educational science activities through programs and events, such as our weekly Chemsations!, Energy Expl!-s!, and Lightapalooza! amphitheater shows, with 1,170 museum guests. These shows give students opportunities to hone their communication skills, develop and share hands-on activities, and to be the “expert” in something they are passionate about.

The Future Science Leaders (FSL) program for middle school children focuses on leadership, communication, and critical thinking. Participants in the program learn science content that they communicate with Sciencenter guests through four different strands:

- Mentoring: guiding younger children in science exploration
- Citizen Science: leading guests in scientific experiments and exploration
- New Media: using technology to connect others with science
- Exhibits: learning the tools and trade of exhibit building

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FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS

“The hands-on experiences were amazing! And the kids were able to go to the stream to measure the acid in the water, speed of the stream, distance across and depth of water. Definitely worth the 2 hour drive!”

— Museum guest
"Many of the families in our area are low-income or single-parent households. I was SO proud to see your participation in the Museums for All program. I LOVE that the Sciencenter has made a move to make education more accessible for everyone, regardless of income."—Amanda Jane Pelletier

ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL

These programs allow all members of our community, regardless of financial means or location, to visit the Sciencenter.

Membership Access Program (MAP)

This program ensures that all children living in Tompkins and surrounding counties, regardless of financial means, can visit us as often as they’d like without cost as a barrier. The Sciencenter provides free family memberships to families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. Currently 484 families participate which accounts for 23% of Sciencenter memberships. Gifts to the Sciencenter Annual Fund make this program possible.

Museums for All

Museums for All offers $1 admission per person for families who have an EBT card. The program was launched in September of 2014, and as of March 2015, 510 people have used this program to visit the Sciencenter. Gifts made to the Sciencenter Annual Fund make this program possible.

Agency Pass Program

In partnership with local health and human service agencies, the Sciencenter opens its doors at no cost to local families in need; we welcomed 1,986 clients of these agencies in 2014. The Agency Pass Program is supported by the Sciencenter’s Corporate Membership Program.

Family Science Nights

We engage entire communities in hands-on science experiences at local elementary schools, with physics and engineering as primary themes in 2014-2015. In 2014-15, 50 volunteers helped lead activities, and 1,300 students and parents participated in the Sciencenter’s free Family Science Nights at Belle Sherman, Caroline, Cayuga Heights, Corfland, Dryden, Newfield, and Erford Elementary Schools.

First Free Sundays

During the first Sunday of each winter month, the Sciencenter opens its doors to all at no charge. We welcomed 2,210 guests during first five Sundays in 2014.

IMPACT AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Our collaborations and partnerships with other organizations on both the local and national level allow us to expand our reach, enrich the experiences of our guests, and empower children and families to use science in shaping a better future.

Living Laboratory

Cornell researchers use the Sciencenter as a Living Lab, to study early learning. The Living Lab provides researchers with the opportunity to work with children and provides parents the chance to discuss the principles of early learning with experts. Parents learn about current studies in child development, and strategies to encourage skill development.

Naturalist Outreach Group

Our educators present a class on engaging audiences through hands-on activities in an informal setting. Class members then present Saturday Showtime! programs in our amphitheater. Last year, 100 Sciencenter guests learned about spiders, nocturnal mammals, and other topics.

Community Science Institute and the Finger Lakes Institute

Scientists from these two organizations mentor Future Science Leader participants about conducting scientific research. Future Science Leaders work with scientists to collect and analyze data on water chemistry and insect life in Cascadilla Creek.

IMLS Early Learners Collaborative

The Sciencenter is participating in an international collaboration to study best practices in educational programming for young children. As part of this collaboration, we are sharing our experience working with preschool teachers at the Downtown Ithaca Children’s Center to introduce science-based activities in their classroom.

Portal to the Public

In partnership with the Pacific Science Center Portal, the Public helps researchers and scientists share their expertise with a public audience. The Sciencenter educates volunteers to use science in conducting science activities with children. Scientists and educators familiar with these programs have used Portal to the Public in communities across the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2014, the Sciencenter joined five exhibitions, 7 of which were developed or co-developed by the Sciencenter with support from the National Science Foundation and other sponsors.

Touring Exhibitions in North America and Europe

Through the Sciencenter’s international traveling exhibition program, we engage over 1 million museum guests in science each year. The Sciencenter tours exhibitions to other museums throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2014, the Sciencenter toured 7 exhibitions, 7 of which were developed or co-developed by the Sciencenter with support from the National Science Foundation and other sponsors.

大战役アリーナより

Spooky Science

Over 1,000 guests in costume explored tricked-out exhibits and experienced a full-line-up of special presentations, demonstrations, and activities delivered by 78 volunteers for this annual free community event.

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Leading Nanotechnology Learning

As one of the leading organizations for the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network, the Sciencenter directs the development of NISE Net educational products, leads the annual national NanoDays event, and coordinates a network of museum partners in the northeastern U.S. Using educational science activities developed by the Sciencenter, over 500,000 guests in 250 U.S. museums experience applications of nanotechnology in everyday life.

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**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Sciencenter places highest priority on sound fiscal management to ensure that every dollar is put to the best possible use in helping us fulfill our mission of inspiring excitement for science in children, through interactive exhibits and programs that engage, educate, and empower.

**2014 Operating Revenue:**

- Grants: 17%
- Donations: 24%
- Traveling Exhibition: 11%
- Rental Income: 22%
- Admission & Membership: 14%
- Administration: 25%
- Store Sales: 5%
- Programs: 4%
- Endowment & Other: 5%
- Fundraising: 11%

**2014 Expenses:**

- Exhibits & Educational Programs: 64%
- Administration: 21%
- Fundraising: 11%

**2014 Operating Revenue:**

- $2,813,267

**2014 Expenses:**

- $2,419,978

**The Sciencenter Endowment**

The Sciencenter Endowment is a set of funds that we invest long term to generate income to support the museum and its core programs. The contributed amount, or principal, remains invested in perpetuity, and a portion of the income generated each year supports the Sciencenter.

As a not-for-profit organization relying on admission and membership income, grants, and private gifts, annual income from the endowment helps keep Sciencenter admission prices low and allows us to create innovative exhibits and programs each year. During 2014, the endowment provided $112,000 in operating support, or 4.6% of the Sciencenter’s budget.

**Endowment Growth:**

- $500,000
- $1,000,000
- $1,500,000
- $2,000,000
- $2,500,000
- $3,000,000
- $3,500,000
- $4,000,000

**2014 Endowment Fund Report**

- Name Funds as of 12/31/14
- Unrestricted Endowment Fund: $450,000
- Board Designated Endowment: 1,700
- 25th Anniversary Fund: 856,822
- Field Trip Fund: 26,000
- Fund for New Initiatives: 26,000
- New Visions Fund for High Impact Programs: 363,667
- Sustainability Fund: 26,087
- Bill and June Bassett Fund: 122,000
- Sharon Bloch Event Fund: 16,183
- Courts Family Foundation Fund for Ocean Education: 68,616
- Cottrell Family Fund: 14,308
- Cowie Family Fund: 25,000
- John and Ruth Morton Fund for Community Programs: 137,233
- Saltonstall Fund for Animal Care: 15,154
- Trautmann Fund for Facilities Management: 101,555
- Yale Family Fund: 54,499
- Elizabeth and Richard Hutchison Fund for Science Education: 60,000

**Total Fund Value:**

- 139,237
- 3,368,215

*Reflects total contributions to date plus income earned, less payout of 4.5% to fund designated purpose.
If we have made any inadvertent errors or omissions in the preparation of this donor list, please notify us. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at the event.

Thank you!
THE CATALYST SOCIETY
Honoring individuals who invest in the future of the Sciencenter by including a gift to the Sciencenter’s endowment in either their living philanthropy or estate plans.

The Sciencenter extends its deepest appreciation to our Catalyst Society Members:

Jane Bassett
William Bassett
Hans Bethe*
Rose Bethe
Jeb Brooks
G. Walton Cottrell
Jean Cottrell
Robert Cowie
Vanne Cowie
Nancy Downes
Paul Downes
Brad Grainger
Mary Grainger
Jean Hadfield
Richard Hutchings
Keith Kennedy*
Robert McGuire
John Morton*
Ruth Morton
Jane Rempel
Carrie Shearer
Suzanne Spitz
Edmund Sutton
Bruce Thompson
Katie Thompson
Charlie Trautmann
Frank Trautmann*
Nancy Trautmann
Carol Travis
Mack Travis
Cherie Wendelken
Nancy Volkman
Michael & Holly Koazaroff
Joel Zumoff

*Deceased

Gift planning options that will help our endowment grow:
• Outright bequests in a will or living trust
• Gifts of appreciated securities
• Life income gifts (charitable remainder trusts or pooled income funds)
• Charitable gifts from IRAs and other pension plan assets
• Gifts of life insurance
• Real estate and certain other types of property

SUPPORT NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE: BOB MCGUIRE

Goldberg machine that can be found at Logan Airport, the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City, the Boston Museum of Science, and of course most notably, here at the Sciencenter in Ithaca. Bob, who has been a Sciencenter volunteer, board member, donor, and exhibit builder, recently sat down with us to share a little of why he recently made a gift to the Catalyst Society.

“Thirty years ago Debbie Levin, Ilma Levine, and Bill Bassett began with the idea of engaging kids in science with interactive exhibits. With their help, and under the guidance of Charlie Trautmann, the Sciencenter’s Executive Director, that vision took shape. When I first got involved we were in a little space on the first floor of a new building where the YMCA used to be. Over the years, the Sciencenter has developed from a one-room shop to a sophisticated museum with programs for each age group. Shortly after we opened the doors, the folks at the Sciencenter decided to start an endowment fund. That was a hard sell. We needed money to pay rent, utilities, and staff. How do we justify setting aside money for endowment when there seem to be so many pressing needs? Well, Charlie and I talked about it, and I realized that yes, that was important in planning for the future. We started out with a few thousand dollars, and I was one of the first ones to earmark my annual gift for endowment. When I made out my will a couple of years ago, it seemed only natural to leave money to a strong organization like the Sciencenter. I believe in its mission and feel that my bequest is going to have a positive impact.”

TRIBUTE GIFTS
In honor of Suzanne Spitz, Liz Adams
In honor of Charlie & Nancy Trautmann, Jennifer Engel & Larry Young
In honor of Debbie Levin & Emma Levine, Jennifer Engel & Larry Young
In honor of Carina Volkman, Michael & Holly Koazaroff
In honor of Charlie Trautmann, John & Patricia O’Neil

MEMORIAL GIFTS
In memory of Thomas Martin Huber, G. Walton & Jean Cottrell
In memory of Frank Trautmann, Robin Duvall & David Skorton
In memory of John Marcham, Jack & Janet Lowe

“Tribute gifts are a powerful way for the Sciencenter to honor the memory of a loved one. Whether it is a personal gift or a memorial contribution, these donations are an enduring way to celebrate the special impact that the Sciencenter had on the donor or honoree.”

– Museum guest

SUPPORT NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE: BOB MCGUIRE

Bob McGuire is co-creator of the machines that are a cross between an Alexander Calder sculpture and a Rube Goldberg machine that can be found at Logan Airport, the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City, the Boston Museum of Science, and of course most notably, here at the Sciencenter in Ithaca. Bob, who has been a Sciencenter volunteer, board member, donor, and exhibit builder, recently sat down with us to share a little of why he recently made a gift to the Catalyst Society.

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