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2018 Chester Ave Bakersfield, CA. 93301
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www.sharktoothhill.org

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December 2018

Dear Museum Friend,

As the 2018-year ends and we begin our 24th year serving our community and visitors as an educational resource, we reflect with appreciation to all those who have helped the Museum to continue to grow and improve through the years. As we look to the future it is an exciting time! Please consider the past year's programs and events and the encouraging future the museum has as listed below. We would be grateful for your consideration of an end of year donation to continue the many science education programs offered by the museum. Listed below are highlights from our past year.

BVM Educational programs includes STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math).

- **The Spectacular World of Science**, this spring event, has become an annual event attended by several hundred kids, parents, and educators.
- **Summer Science Camps**, where learning about Science is an educational and fun experience! In 2018 was expanded to 6 weeks! This is an increase helped meet the request from parents for more fun science camps.
- **Just for Kids, a Saturday Science enrichment program** held on the first Saturday of the month. With a Focus on kids 1st through 6th grade.
- **Docent and Junior Docent Training** Students learn the many areas of the museum.
- **Science Lectures for Adults and students** with topics of Geology, Archeology, and partnering with JPL/NASA volunteers for the many Astronomy presentations.

It is with continued support from kind and generous persons like yourself that the Museum is able to offer our community many STEM/Educational programs for children and adults. In 2018 Buena Vista Museum celebrated our 23rd year of incorporation. We have from the beginning continuously grown. However, the past few years the growth has been tremendous! Our focus is making the museum an even better educational experience for families and individuals too. Our attendance, school tours, community outreach to schools and other educational organizations served over 9,691 children and 10,593 adults. Thus, a total of over 20,284 adults and children who have experienced BVM's exhibits and **educational programs in 2018, our highest number ever!**

Please consider what the museum offers our community and visitors:

- **A well-rounded view of science.** We are the only museum in central California with exhibits of Anatomy, Astronomy, Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, Geology, and

Paleontology. Our hands-on interactive Science Discovery Center, which includes the “Oh! Zone” and “Explore-it Zone” are very popular with kids.

- **On permanent display are:**
 - An extraordinary collection of world class local Miocene marine and land fossils from the famous Sharktooth Hill area;
 - Our Native American Lifeways interpretive dwelling, celebrating the San Joaquin Valley Yokuts Indian heritage;
 - Animal mounts from Africa, Asia, Australia and North America;
 - A diversified Geology section with hands-on rocks and stunning gems, minerals, and petrified wood;
 - Ancient Life exhibits with life size dinosaur casts and fossils;
 - Newer displays including California’s Changing Water, Nano Technology, Heart and Cell displays, and the “Mars and More” display featuring items from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and a new area of the Explore-It Zone designed for our youngest visitors.
 - Coming in Spring 2019 Augmented Reality Sandbox and interactive geology display.

The heart and soul of the museum is the children. BVM places a high focus on today’s youth. We make science an educational, fun and lasting experience. Imagine a child seeing and touching for the first time a dinosaur bone, shark tooth, meteorite, gold nugget, fluorescent rocks that glows in the dark, staring at a fully-grown lion, and taking a spin on an astronaut’s chair. It happens every day at BVM! In the many educational programs and tours, we conduct, our goal is for children to learn and have fun with science through hands-on learning experiences.

With generous donations from several individuals a New Exhibit is being made possible to open early Spring 2019, an Augmented Reality Sandbox, an exciting interactive geology display. As we look to the future one of our goals is to increase the interactive exhibits as funds are available. Making accessible more hands-on science learning for children, families, teachers and individuals. Science is important in helping our children observe, experiment, reason, and think critically – skills our teachers see lacking in many students today.

In our almost 24 years, the Museum has grown tremendously; we are a unique resource of science education in Kern County. **While everything happening at the museum is positive and encouraging, our cash flow struggles to keep up with our growth and expenses.** But our years of service to Kern County has demonstrated our persistence, resilience, and commitment to science education and history. We maintain working relationships with many primary sources of formal education including the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Cal State Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, and the many school districts.

In 2015 we purchased the building we call home. We are making improvements, opening new exhibits and increasing programs. Another **one of our many goals is to accelerate the mortgage payments** with hopes the building will be paid off in the near future. **The building fund is still open to accept donations.** In the Spring of 2019 watch for the renovations to the Bathrooms

and updating to much of the plumbing with funds from a Grant from Virginia and Alfred Harrell Foundation.

If you have not visited the Museum in the past year, please come by or call for an appointment with me. I would be happy to personalize a tour for you, share the positive changes and growth the museum is experiencing and plans for the future. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Koral Hancharick
Executive Director for BVM

*****cut and detach*****

2018 Charitable Gift

Name _____ E-mail _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

_____ Enclosed is my donation for the **General Operations** in the amount of \$ _____

_____ Enclosed is my donation in support of many **Educational programs** \$ _____

_____ Enclosed is my donation in support of **Exhibit Acquisitions** \$ _____

_____ I would like to **pledge** on a monthly basis \$ _____

_____ I would like to receive pre-addressed monthly pledge envelopes.

_____ Please charge the above amount to my credit card # _____

Name on Card _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Please contact me at Ph # _____ Best time to call _____

_____ I would like to be a volunteer. Please send me an application and more information.

Please mail to **BVM, 2018 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 USA** Or call 661-324-6350