

DISCOVERY 2020 WISH BOOK

Make informed decisions about your philanthropy.



TOP 20 FOR 2020!



PRESERVING OUR PAST.
BUILDING OUR FUTURE.
ONE DONATION AT A TIME.



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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Minnesota Discovery Center has new and exciting adventures ahead in 2020. Visitors will now experience expanded trolley service to the Glen Location, expanded food service availability, and a new mountain bike park trail system. MDC is also in the process of defining our new comprehensive plan that will help strategically guide our organization far into the future.

Friends of MDC will now enjoy extended trolley availability to our Glen Location. Visitors will have the opportunity to spend more time exploring all that the Glen has to offer with its exhibits, paved trails, and outdoor mining equipment. MDC now serves as the trailhead for the newly constructed, world-class mountain bike trail system. The new system will open in 2020 with 17 miles of completed trail, and additional miles being constructed the summer of 2020. We look forward to the economic impact this system will bring to our communities. The trail system will enhance the quality of life for our community and growth in tourism for our local businesses.

The Rustic Pig Restaurant will be reopening on April 17th offering an elaborate full-service lunch and dinner menu on Friday's featuring a special "Chef's Choice" entrée and signature drink that are sure to keep you coming back for more!

In the museum, we currently have our temporary exhibit installation of 'Carnival of Curiosities', which is an entertaining collection from our archives. Coming this summer, we will be hosting the 'We Are Water MN Traveling Exhibit' from April 16th to June 15th. The new exhibit will feature exciting educational opportunities for the public to view and interact with. Additionally, the Research Center has installed new state-of-the-art equipment and we are ready to better serve the thousands of research and genealogy guests and request we receive every year.

We cannot achieve all our intended goals and services on our own without the support of people like you. That said, I invite you to shop our 2020 Wish Book. You can choose to underwrite an item(s) or you can choose to simply make an unrestricted tax-deductible gift in any amount. In addition, we have 'dollar for dollar' matching funds to apply to any gift made to MDC, so your gift of \$40 becomes an \$80 contribution!

We appreciate and depend on the support of citizens like you who make the Minnesota Discovery Center the incredible experience it is. I hope that you will consider contributing to our vision and mission. We thank you!

Sincerely,

Donna Johnson
Executive Director



Minnesota Discovery Center
800-372-6437

Enjoy the 2020 Minnesota Discovery Center Wish Book

Mission

MDC transports area residents and guests to a space where they can connect with the Iron Range's storied past while creating lasting memories that honor the region's unique human and natural history.

Vision

We will be a museum that sparks individual curiosity and inspires our community through experiencing the past to shape a better future.



Glen Location as viewed from the northeast, likely from the Glen No. 2 mine shaft. The power house, water tower, oil house, and school are all visible to the right, with dozens of houses visible.
1900s-1910



Bob Dylan's first band, Hibbing, Minnesota Miss Johns' fifth-grade class band, including Robert Zimmerman (i.e., Bob Dylan) with drum.
1952-1953



Hibbing, Minnesota Police Department's Baseball Team Members pictured Eric, Nord, Gene Grady, Bob Geiselman, Archie McFayden, R. Weeding, B.J. Burrows, Dave Williams, Frank Haben, and Dan Hayes.
1910

You can experience the wonders of philanthropy by choosing to support MDC with a tax deductible gift which can be designated to underwrite all or part of the costs of a specific program or capital item. Unrestricted gifts are welcome also. The intent of the 2020 Wish Book is to help you make informed decisions about your philanthropy. We hope you find shopping our Wish Book not only entertaining and fun but motivational!

No-Strings-Attached Support

Your unrestricted gift to the Minnesota Discovery Center allows us to continue serving as an important, and relevant feature of the Iron Range. Choose to honor or memorialize a family member or friend with your gift or make your donation do even more through our dollar-for-dollar matching opportunity. Gifts of any amount are used to support the MDC mission and are always tax deductible – and truly appreciated.

Experience The Rails In A New Way

No longer limited to rail cars, railroads can now be explored via rail bikes, which invite riders of all ages to experience a new perspective. Following the existing MDC trolley track, rail bikes will be one more adventure for visitors to enjoy.

Rail Rider (4-Seater)..... (2) at \$3,000

All Aboard!

A trip aboard MDC's historic trolley car transports visitors on a scenic ride to a former mining community known as the Glen Location. It's easy to see why this is a favorite attraction, but what's clearer is how much better it could be with an improved sound system, allowing all visitors to hear the guide's stories. Enhanced audio will provide a truly immersive Iron Range experience.

New Sound System for Historic Trolley..... (1) at \$2,200

Provide Unique, Memorable Learning Opportunities

There's so much to experience at MDC, from the area's unique geology to its history and people. You can help students discover the center by sponsoring field trips for children of all ages, from all walks of life, throughout the region.

Individual Field Trip (lunch included)..... \$25 per student

Dig For Clues To The Past

While known for its rich source of iron ore, the earth of the Iron Range has some surprises to offer. From marine reptiles and dinosaurs to first generation immigrants, the Underground exhibit illustrates how much we can learn about the past by exploring what's beneath our feet. Your \$100 gift will help maintain our fossil collection and display.

Fossil Collection and Display..... Unlimited gift opportunities at \$100

Spot Us From Far

Help MDC get noticed by daily commuters! MDC is stuck in the paper age! Put your donation toward a new digital billboard for MDC, which will help us advertise more events, save on paper waste, and help the community stay informed.

Digital Bill Board (2) at \$130,000 each



Butler Taconite employees,
Cooley, Minnesota.
1940's

Discover Your Roots

For the past year, MDC's archivist has hosted free monthly "Genealogy Genie" programs dedicated to the process of family history research. The workshops include information on MDC resources and services such as our comprehensive genealogy database, traditional and digital newspaper resources, maps, and historical photograph collections. Through Genealogy Genie, many people – from family tree enthusiasts to experienced researchers – have learned how to trace family roots.

Support the Genealogy Genie Program Numerous Gift at \$50

Make History More Accessible

MDC has collected historically significant written, oral, and visual records of Minnesota's Iron Range for decades. Over that time, the Internet has revolutionized the historical research process, making it possible to explore vast amounts of data online. Our archivist needs your help to ensure MDC collections are included in this ever-expanding area of research and discovery.

Annual On-line Subscription\$4,000



1940 Union Bus Station

Provide Broader Perspectives

In addition to permanent displays that explore Iron Range history, people, culture, and geography, MDC also displays temporary traveling exhibits. In the past, these have included the artwork of Virginia, MN, native Rosalee Goddard Vogel, the 1916 Mesabi Range miner strike, and the region's underground artifacts. You can help ensure MDC can continue to bring topics like these to life by sponsoring an exhibit.

Traveling Exhibit Sponsorship\$1,000 - \$5,000

Preserve The Past

Part of MDC's mission is to collect, preserve and make accessible, historical records that document the human experience on Minnesota's Iron Range. One of the best sources of historical information and documentation (i.e. death records, naturalization records, and newspapers) is preserved on microfilm. MDC's Iron Range Research Center (IRRC) has thousands of microfilm reels, which our staff utilize to fulfill genealogy record requests from around the world every day. Our current microfilm system's our obsolete and they no longer provide upgrades or parts for our microfilm system.

Digital Microfilm System (2) at \$12,000 each



Sunday School Students and Teachers
Reverend Matti Lahtonen, Sunday school students and
teachers, Finnish Methodist Church, Chisholm.
1915



Give Directions

With more than 600 acres to explore and discover, the MDC campus can be challenging to navigate. That's why we need your help to make it easier for visitors to find their way. Your gift will provide for new signage to clearly communicate the locations of services, facilities, and functional spaces.

SignageNumerous Gifts in Any Amount

Invite Visitors To Have A Seat

Strategically placed park benches in various locations throughout the MDC park will invite visitors to rest, relax, and enjoy the views. Put your family or business name on a park bench!

Park Benches15 needed at \$500 each

Take A Lunch Break

While spending the day at MDC, many visitors enjoy lunch or refreshments. You can offer them a comfortable place to relax before embarking on their next MDC adventure with the purchase of new picnic tables.

Picnic Tables 15 needed at \$800 each

Help Us Work Harder

From hauling exhibits to maintaining trails and plowing roads, our work trucks get a work-out all year long. MDC needs a new pick-up truck in order to continue these day-to-day tasks.

New Pick-up Truck.....\$35,000

Give Field Trips for All

At MDC, field trips for students of all ages are both educational and fun, which makes them memorable learning experiences. You can make it possible for more students to explore the exhibits, learn about Iron Range history, and participate in folk-art demonstrations.

Group Field Trips.....Numerous at \$150 each

Let's Go HD

The MDC campus is one of the most beautiful around – providing visitors with a glimpse into Iron Range history and culture - and we want to show it off! Help us improve our image with a new DSLR HD Cannon Camera that will allow us to capture truly amazing photography and videography that we can use to promote MDC's grounds, services, museum items and exhibits, and much more! In addition, a new camera will allow us to better document the historical and cultural material we have, making it available to display on our website for public viewing.

Camera & Lens (1) at \$3,500



Louis Vukonich and family, Meyers Location, Minnesota
1945



Clean Campus

Here at MDC we want to make sure our campus stays clean and that we recycle items whenever possible. Help MDC keep a clean environmentally friendly campus by putting your gift toward new trash/recycling receptacles to be placed across our 660 acre property.

Trash/Recycling Receptacles(s)..... 12 at \$1,000 each

Give The Gift That Keeps Giving

Rather than being spent on current operations or capital projects, endowment gifts are permanently invested in order to support MDC initiatives in perpetuity. With a portion of the endowment's value used annually, donors can specify their preference for supporting the MDC mission. What's more, MDC can match endowment gifts dollar-for-dollar, so your donation has even more impact.

Endowment GiftsNumerous Needed

Increase Brand Awareness

Strategically developed brand recognition for your business by becoming an MDC sponsor. Opportunities to be seen by MDC visitors include T-shirts, banners, signage, newsletters, print and web ads, radio spots, social media, press releases, billboards, invites, landing pages and email campaigns. We work closely with sponsors to ensure their gift meets their specific brand recognition needs.

For sponsorship information contact the Fund Development Coordinator 218-254-6000

Help Us Work Smarter

Computers have become embedded in almost every aspect of our lives but are particularly invaluable for work. MDC needs updated and new computers to increase efficiencies for tasks like bookkeeping and creative endeavors.

Computers..... 5 available at \$1,200 each

Heat Things Up

In Minnesota, the weather can be unpredictable and the cold grip of winter can linger longer than expected, making it difficult and sometimes uncomfortable for our visitor's to participate in outdoor recreation and programing or enjoy our beautiful grounds. Help MDC heat things up by putting your donation toward outdoor propane gas heaters. MDC will strategically place the heaters across our campus to make our outdoor venues, exhibits, and programing more comfortable for our guests.

Outdoor Propane Heaters..... 10 needed at \$500 each



Bill Morse and "Arelji Jokki"
1940



Bucyrus-Erie Steam drills, Chisholm, Minnesota
1940's



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Thank You!

Through the generous support of our members, donors, volunteers, and sponsors – the Minnesota Discovery Center advances its mission to promote the understanding and exploration of Minnesota culture and history.

