



2019 WISH BOOK

EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS
OF PHILANTHROPY
BY SHOPPING OUR WISH BOOK
&
SUPPORTING
THE MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

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 2019 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!



Minnesota Discovery Center

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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We have so many reasons to celebrate! It has been an exciting year of receiving local, state, and national prestigious museum awards for our new temporary and permanent exhibits “1916 Mesabi Range Strike” and “Blue-Collar Battleground: The Iron Range Labor Story”. Minnesota Discovery Center’s Iron Range Research Center (IRRC) continues to grow, with the number of researchers we serve in the U.S. and worldwide climbing. The “Family Tree” magazine lists the IRRC as one of the top genealogy websites in America. MDC has created more “roots” in family trees by hosting a record number of weddings (18) in the past 12 months. The number of visitors, historic trolley rides, and mini-golf users has also seen a significant increase.

The partnerships we have made are creating an exciting opportunity for your future and the future of the Minnesota Discovery Center. We have many important projects on the horizon. Be sure to visit our new restaurant “The Rustic Pig” open to the public on Saturday’s during the winter months then expanding our hours with the spring and summer season. Our menu will feature entrees that are sure to please using fresh produce and healthy food options that are crafted by our talented Executive Chef.

We are grateful to the many individuals who make the operation of MDC a success. It is no secret that our successes, both present and future, would not have been possible without the financial contributions of so many giving people. In order to grow, serve our mission, and enhance our programs and services, we are counting on the financial support of our friends. By doing so, a greater amount of our collections will be made available for public education opportunities preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Iron Range.

I ask you to read and shop the 2019 Minnesota Discovery Center Wish Book. This booklet presents a sample picture of our many and varied needs. You can choose to underwrite an item(s) or you can simply make an unrestricted tax deductible gift in any amount by completing the form and returning in the enclosed envelope. For any donation of \$40 or more, we will gift you a Family Membership so you may experience our museum anytime that you desire. In addition, we have dollar for dollar matching funds that apply to any gift made to MDC, therefore your gift of \$40 becomes \$80!

We appreciate and depend upon the support of citizens like you who make the Minnesota Discovery Center a reality. I hope you will consider contributing to this worthwhile endeavor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna Johnson
Executive Director



Enjoy the 2019 Minnesota Discovery Center Wish Book



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

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 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 shows how much we can learn about 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



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

Thank you for your past support!

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 documentation (death records, naturalization records, newspapers) is preserved in microfilm. MDC’s Iron Range Research Center (IRRC) has 1,000s of reels of microfilm, which staff utilize to fulfill genealogy record requests from around the world every day. However, the current microfilm readers and printers are obsolete, and to maintain access to the vast collection of microfilm reels, the IRRC staff needs up-to-date equipment.



Butler Taconite employees,
Cooley, Minnesota.
1940's

Digital Reader/Scanner/Printer(2) at \$2,000 each

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 ProgramNumerous Gift at \$50



1940 Union Bus Station

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

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



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.

Signage.....Numerous 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 Benches.....5 needed at \$400 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.....8 needed at \$250 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



Louis Vukonich and family, Meyers Location, Minnesota
1945



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.

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 Gifts Numerous Needed

Increase Brand Awareness

Strategically build 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, tweets, Facebook posts, press releases, billboards, invites, landing pages and email campaigns. We work closely with sponsors to ensure their gift meets their specific brand recognition goals.

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



Bill Morse and "Arelji Jokki"
1940



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



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Our Mission:

To collect, preserve, interpret, educate and promote Iron Range history and cultural heritage. To serve, manage, promote, sustain and develop the MDC assets for the long-term benefit of regional Iron Range residents and visitors.

