

Giant toys make up giant donation



The McCaffrey family of Upper Makefield, (front row) **Chase** (6), **Ryan** (7), (middle row) Mother, **Danielle**, **Jenna** (10), **Taylor** (7). (Top row) **Dylan** (3) and Dad, **Steven**, donated their toys from FAO Schwarz to the Bucks County Children's Museum in New Hope.

By: FRED A. SAVANA
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A generous donor contributed a one-of-a-kind gift to the Bucks County Children's Museum.

As men in bright red T-shirts started unloading the bright red truck in front of the Bucks County Children's Museum on Tuesday it was easy to imagine Santa's sleigh landing, just a few days behind schedule.

And it felt like Christmas to the hardworking volunteers who have been laboring for more than two years to create the New Hope museum.

"We're extremely grateful for this completely unique, one-of-a-kind donation," said Lou Lombardi, a museum board member.

The movers, joined by the town's mayor, Larry Keller, were hauling in an unusual gift that made its way to the still developing museum via the renowned FAO Schwarz toy store and a generous Upper Makefield family.

Among the new items that will become the museum's first exhibits is a 14-foot-high clock tower, complete with smiling clock face; a towering tree house that will be adapted so children can sit inside; and a child-size car with an animated bear that once gave visitors directions inside the King of Prussia toy store.

An animated dinosaur head and a talking lion will also find a home in the Union Square children's museum, set to open in the late fall of 2011.

Steve McCaffrey, along with his wife, Danielle, and five children, decided the life-size toys he bought when the mall branch of the famous store was being liquidated several years ago would be better off in the museum than their home's playroom.

"When we realized it was too much for a house we wanted to see the items go to a nonprofit; that was our number one goal," said Steve McCaffrey.

He said his family was delighted to learn about the children's museum and knew it would make a good home for the distinctive pieces.

For the museum's founder and president, Kelly Krumenacker, the donation, valued at more than \$100,000, is a giant step forward for the facility.

"It's a perfect fit and we're very appreciative," she said.

Krumenacker said the museum plans to adapt the clock tower to the town square exhibit and use the dinosaur in the artifact-dig display. The automated car can be reprogrammed and the talking lion, well, "we'll find a spot for him," said the president.

New Hope's mayor was excited about the new museum's potential, saying it's likely to become one of the popular tourist town's "core attractions."

"This is great for our town," said Keller.

The nonprofit museum is designed to provide a Bucks County-based educational, hands-on experience for children and parents. It recently found its home in the Bridge Street shopping complex.

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