

Sheridan's remarks and toast, April 24, 2019

In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun

You find the fun and snap, you have Kohl Children's Museum.

Fun, play, learning discovery, teamwork and family is what the place where awesome lives is all about.

We came from an old bowling alley where yes, the building shook when the AC kicked in, or a mini Buckingham fountain appeared in the bathroom when Wilmette flooded. But still the Museum was loved by many for its wondrous exhibits and programs.

Thanks to the hard dedicated work and vision of many of you in this room we were able to raise the money and create the plans to build this wonderful place that has enabled us to achieve so much more.

Suffice it to say that without our great board of trustees, womens board, development board, partners in the Village of Glenview and in this community and our brilliant staff this dream could never have been a reality.

But it is. It is our collective passion for early learning, for giving every child a solid start, especially those where access to places like this is hard that has been the foundation for success. Our work is grounded in research and we know that the environments and experiences we provide have everlasting impact on the lives of so many children and families.

Our culture is one of teamwork and collaboration and we have fun just like every child and caregiver we reach.

I am so proud of all that we have done together and now offer you a final toast.

A toast my friends to each of you, for what we've done together

This great Museum built for all, it will go on forever

The place where truly awesome lives, where play becomes the tool

A chance to every child we give, and kids make all the rules.

The future now is yours to steer, the past can stay behind
Let inspiration grow each year as you spark more young minds
The Museum now is poised to grow to reach out near and far
To help all children love to learn and help them reach their star
The wind has turned as east I go, my work here now is done
To you I give my heartfelt thanks for 20 years of fun.
But one last challenge I have hatched, a little campaign lift
One million dollars must be matched, with new or increased gifts

A happy Grandad has embraced a Mary Poppins fact
The happy wondrous joyous face, as a child we did impact
He watched, observed in gleeful wonder a child as she did play
Now play has urged him to be a funder, we truly made his day.
Get out your contacts make some calls, excitement we're creating
We'd love to break ground early fall
That million bucks is waiting.