MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

A Year of Discovery and Community

2021 Impact Report

MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

DEAR FRIENDS,

The past year has been a challenging one for the Montshire. Like you, we've been grappling with the pandemic and a host of related health, regulatory, and financial uncertainties. As you may know, we've also experienced leadership changes with the departure in April of our Executive Director, Marcos Stafne, and a month later, our Director of Education, Lisa Brahms. We have been very fortunate, however, to have a highly talented and dedicated staff, and to have our Deputy Director, Jennifer Rickards, take on the role of Acting Executive Director. Under Jennifer's leadership, the museum has been able to stay open and accessible, to operate safely, and to offer invaluable experiences to the community. Our finances are on solid ground, our exhibits and programs are exemplary, and we're looking to the future with optimism.

The Board of Trustees has conducted a national search for a new Executive Director, and we are excited to welcome Lara Litchfield-Kimber to this position as of January 1, 2022. Lara brings experience, intelligence, creativity, and enthusiasm to her role, as well as a sterling reputation in the world of children's and science museums.

I personally thank you for your support of the Montshire and the crucial role it plays in our community and region in bringing the joy of science to all. I am honored to follow Scott Brown as Board Chair. Scott provided outstanding leadership during these past two years, and I extend my special thanks to both Scott and Jennifer. We are all excited to support the Montshire as we move forward.

Michael Bettmann
Chair, Board of Trustees

In the past year, the Montshire Museum of Science has served:

64,362
Visitors

3,461
Member Households

6,782
Program Participants

432
Summer Camp Participants

Bubbles: Science in Soap

Montshire Staff

Air Works

Montshire Summer Camp

Montshire Summer Camp

Montshire Bees

The Amazing Allosauruses from the *Summer of Dinosaurs*

EXPERIENCING SCIENCE IN INNOVATIVE WAYS

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. The challenges of this past year have revealed that science is more important than ever. As a trusted resource for both science-based information and joyful family learning, the Montshire worked to meet the community's need to engage with STEM-based experiences in meaningful ways by modifying beloved exhibitions and developing new programs and amenities.

14
Newly developed or enhanced exhibitions and experiences

15,000
Square feet of gallery space and amenities modified

300
Wild strawberry plugs planted in the terrace

20
Varieties of annual flowers in *Partners in Pollination*

5
Miles of trails raked

Over the past year, we created new and innovative opportunities for inquiry-based science education, while prioritizing safety and accessibility for all in our community. We developed virtual programs, like Igloo Build at Home, Cardboard Community, and Animals Up-Close. We provided enhanced outdoor experiences, utilizing the Hughes Pavilion to house the Science Discovery Lab, *Big Blue Blocks*, and *Solve It! Maze and Labyrinth*. New features were added to the *Play Grove*, our nature-inspired play area. And more amenities were included outside, like dining areas and resting spaces, so that families can experience a comfortable visit.

SCIENCE DISCOVERY LAB

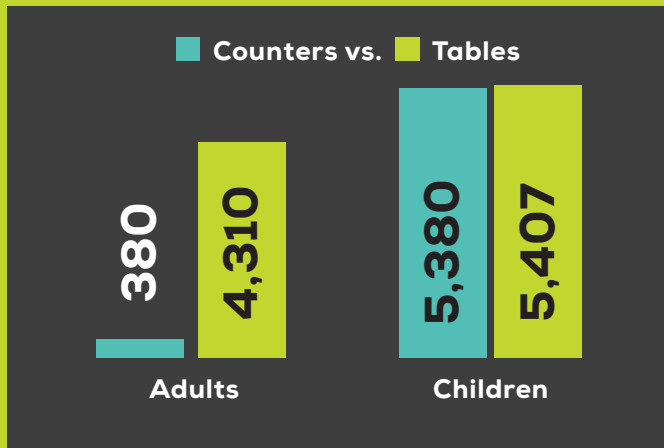
The beloved Science Discovery Lab evolved from a countertop with seating for individual participants to a tabletop experience in which groups worked together to experiment and explore. The results show a more engaged experience for the entire family and a significant increase in adult participation.

Families served at Science Discovery Lab

14,082 Total served

7,571 Children

6,327 Adults



DISCOVERING THE WONDER OF DINOSAURS

Dinosaurs ignite curiosity, inspire awe, spark the imagination, and encourage thought-provoking questions. They provide countless opportunities for joyful discovery and science learning.

This year, the Montshire was thrilled to present the *Summer of Dinosaurs*, which allowed visitors to explore the lives of dinosaurs, big and small, through hands-on exhibits, dramatic fossil specimens, and a series of events and programs for all ages.

SUMMER OF DINOSAURS FEATURED

The Amazing Allosauruses
Spectacular life-sized fossil specimens of an adult and a juvenile Allosaurus

Tiny Titans: Dinosaur Eggs and Babies
An astounding array of authentic dinosaur eggs and nests collected from all over the globe, including those of each of the major plant and meat-eating dinosaur groups, along with fascinating details and artwork about the family lives of these prehistoric creatures

Prehistoric Plants
A lesson on the origins of current-day plant species through an impressive display of varied plant life

Sponsored by Geokon and Mascoma Bank

53
Specimens

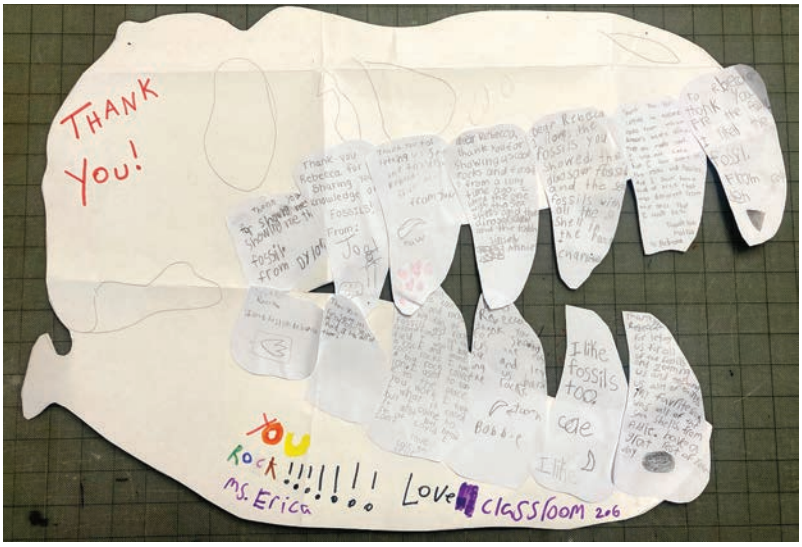
5
Dinosaur families featured

46,631
Visitors served during the exhibition

550
Programs offered during the exhibition

5,589
Visitors served during exhibition-related special events

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS AND SCHOOLS



THE MONTSHIRE STEM ALLIANCE

The Montshire STEM Alliance supports educators in teaching high-quality, hands-on science to students, while also connecting the school community to the museum. Participating schools, teachers, and students receive an array of services, including inquiry-based STEM professional development workshops, one-on-one coaching with a Montshire science educator, curriculum materials and resources, and leadership support.

Participants

Blue Mountain Union School (Vermont)
Bradford Elementary School (Vermont)
Danville Elementary School (Vermont)
Marion Cross Elementary School (Vermont)
Newbury Elementary School (Vermont)
Samuel Morey Elementary School (New Hampshire and Vermont)
Thetford Elementary School (Vermont)
Unity Elementary School (New Hampshire)
Waits River Valley School (Vermont)
Walden School (Vermont)

The way that students learn science in school can affect their perceptions of themselves as science learners for a lifetime. That's why we're committed to strengthening inquiry-based science teaching and learning in our region, and why we strive to improve the ecosystem of science education through support and collaboration. Teachers and school administrators look to the Montshire for expertise, professional development, and instructional resources.

Over the past year, the Montshire continued to work with schools through outreach, group visits, and the Montshire STEM Alliance, a deep and multi-faceted partnership between the museum and regional K–8 schools. As part of our STEM Alliance, we hosted our third cohort of science instructors in the Montshire STEM Teacher-Leader Certificate Program. This year-long professional development opportunity is designed to create and support a network of classroom teachers with the tools, knowledge, and passion to become leaders for STEM education in their schools.

In addition, we developed a searchable web-based resource for educators that offers easy access to a wide selection of activity worksheets, resources, and on-site programs that support teacher and student needs.

874

Students supported by Montshire outreach

90

Teachers in Montshire STEM Alliance + Montshire STEM Teacher-Leader Certificate Program

1,100

Students supported by the Montshire STEM Alliance

603

Participants in virtual classes and webinars

74

Downloadable activity sheets developed to support science learning

61

Videos that support teacher and family education needs

29

Onsite programs available for classes

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Montshire is deeply embedded in our region's ecosystem of learning, and we work in tandem with partner organizations who share our commitment to education. We're grateful for these collaborations that help to enhance learning opportunities, increase our impact, and strengthen our community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AVA Gallery and Art Center
Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center
Child Care Center in Norwich
Dartmouth Autism Research Institute
Dartmouth College
Dartmouth Population Health
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center
ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain
Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium
The Family Place
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Hanover Garden Club
The Hood Museum of Art
Hopkins Center for the Arts
Howe Library
Listen Community Services
Norwich Bookstore
Sensory Upper Valley
Special Needs Support Center
University of Vermont
Upper Valley Haven
Upper Valley Trails Alliance
Valley Quest
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Vital Communities

Photos courtesy of the Hopkins Center for the Arts
From the "Big Move" dance program, featuring Emmanuèle Phuon and Tom Wessels

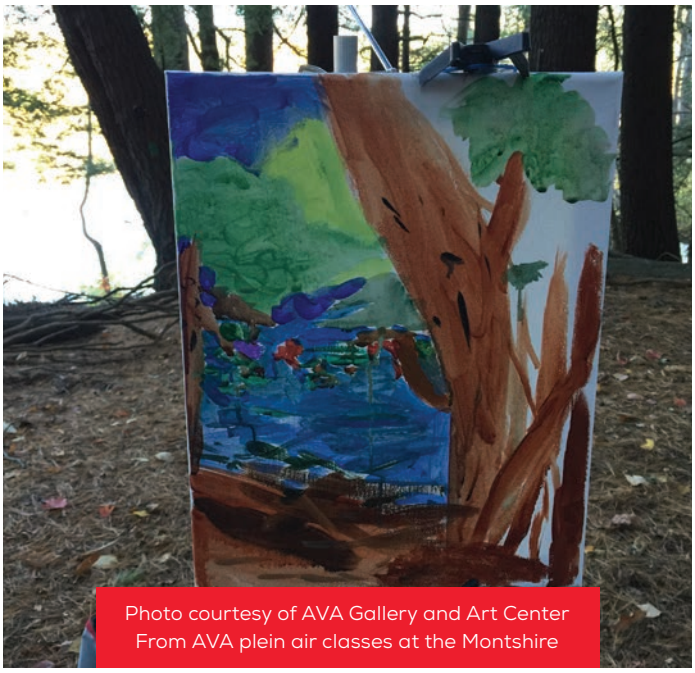


Photo courtesy of AVA Gallery and Art Center
From AVA plein air classes at the Montshire

Cardboard Community with Meredith Rivlin from Cedar Circle

Trail work with Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Igloo Build at Home with plant ecologist Dr. Simone Whitecloud

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

STEM Learning Together with The Family Place

The Montshire and The Family Place were awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to launch a new education initiative, *STEM Learning Together: Strengthening a System of Support for Young Families*. Through this three-year initiative, both organizations will support the education and well-being of two generations within families (parents and their young children) through programs that help meet participants' education goals, provide meaningful engagement in STEM, offer onsite job experience, and prepare participants for parenthood and the workplace.

A Learning Space for the AVA Gallery and the Hopkins Center for the Arts

This year, the Montshire continued its partnership with the AVA Gallery and Art Center by providing a learning space outdoors for the center's plein air classes. The Montshire trails were also home to a "Big Move" dance program offered by the Hopkins Center for the Arts, featuring dance artist Emmanuèle Phuon with ecologist Tom Wessels.

Continued Collaboration with FourScienceVT

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Montshire initiated a partnership with ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science to create FourScienceVT, a consortium that provides strategic, organizational, and programmatic support to one another in order to best serve the changing learning needs of Vermonters. These science institutions continue to work together to share pandemic management strategies, seek funding for shared goals, and collaborate on ways to meet the needs of the state.

WELCOMING ALL TO SCIENCE LEARNING

Experiencing the joy of science is at the heart of what we do at the Montshire. Effectively delivering on this promise requires a focused approach guided by core principles, which include accessibility and friendliness. That's why we strive to provide experiences that welcome all visitors and offer a comfortable and inclusive space for learning.

The Montshire's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility is leading to exciting outcomes, such as greater diversity of people featured in our exhibits and communications, an assessment of the Montshire's hiring practices, and professional development for staff in areas such as bias, identity, diversity, and accessibility.

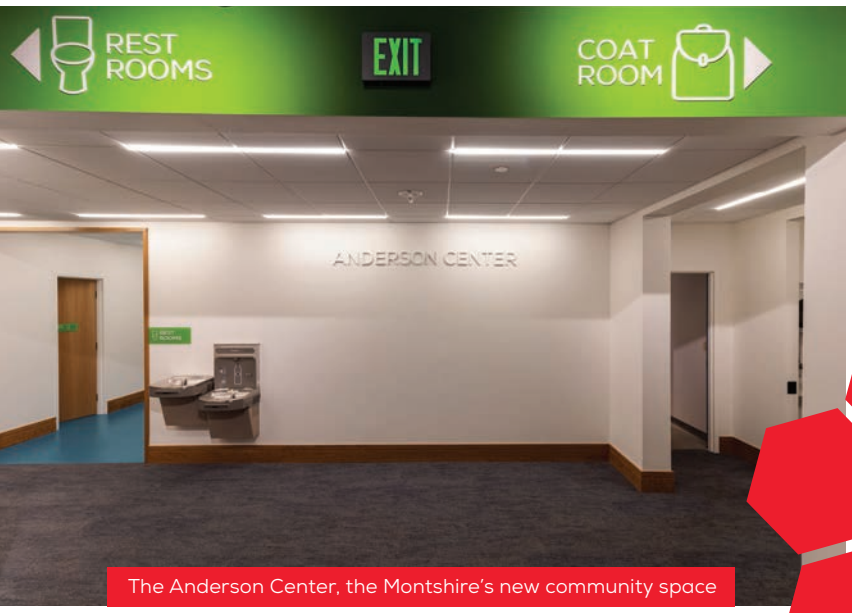
This year, the Montshire opened the **Anderson Center**, a community space designed to offer a more accessible and inclusive experience. This modern museum hub includes gender-inclusive restrooms, a more spacious coat room, and a renovated Porter Community Room for education programs, meetings, and special events. *Made possible with support from Emily and Errik Anderson, Montshire's Board of Trustees, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, and the Vermont Arts Council.*

The Montshire partnered with the Special Needs Support Center to offer **Sensory Friendly Hours**, allowing families to enjoy a quieter and less-crowded visit to the Montshire, with free admission. During these hours, the Montshire offered limited participation, reduced sound from select exhibits, a quiet respite space with sensory support supplies, and visitor resources, including a visitor social narrative, a sensory map, and a visual planner. *Made possible with support from the Keller Family.*

The Montshire led an idea exchange among **Montshire Business Partnership** companies in which local organizations shared their efforts to create more inclusive and accessible workplaces.

The Montshire continues to **spotlight diverse voices in STEM** through our social media platforms and in our galleries, honoring the trailblazers who move science forward.

The **Warm Welcome** program provided access to Montshire experiences for thousands of children and families this year. The program supports Vermont and New Hampshire families with low incomes by providing low-cost visits and memberships, as well as scholarships for Summer Camp and other programs.



The Anderson Center, the Montshire's new community space

Coat room in the Anderson Center

Items from the Montshire sensory kit, available to borrow from the Admissions Desk

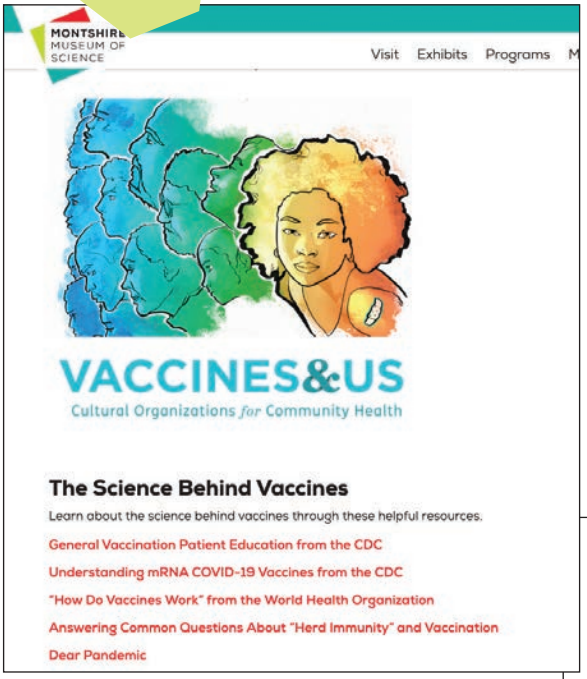
PLAYING A ROLE IN CIVIC DISCOURSE

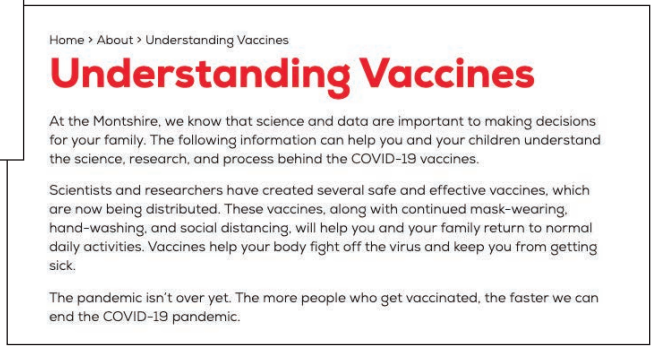
Public trust is important to us at the Montshire Museum of Science. We work hard to earn that trust by presenting accurate, evidence-based science, and we know that members of our community look to us for guidance. That's an honor and a responsibility that we don't take lightly.

Over the past year, we expanded the ways we serve the community, encouraging people to participate in civic dialogue and actions for the public good. For example, we used our email and online communications to encourage people to vote, to participate in the U.S. Census, and to get vaccinated against COVID-19. We hosted a session of Health Research Live!, with partners at the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Population Health. Our website has been expanded to include a variety of resources about how vaccines work, where to get vaccinated, and how to talk with children about the pandemic.

"*Museums and Trust 2021* [a study by the American Alliance of Museums] confirms that the public continues to regard museums as highly trustworthy—ranking second only to friends and family... The top three reasons cited as contributing to this trust are that museums are fact-based, present real/authentic/original objects, and are research-oriented."

–Elizabeth Merritt, American Alliance of Museums





The board and staff of the Montshire are grateful for every contribution. Thank you for supporting the joy of science.

DONOR KEY

- • = 5+ Consecutive Year Honor Roll
- ◊ = 10+ Consecutive Year Honor Roll
- ⋆ = Deceased

DONOR REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2021

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October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

These generous individuals made gifts to the Montshire Fund, Montshire Now & Next, or to support specific Montshire initiatives.

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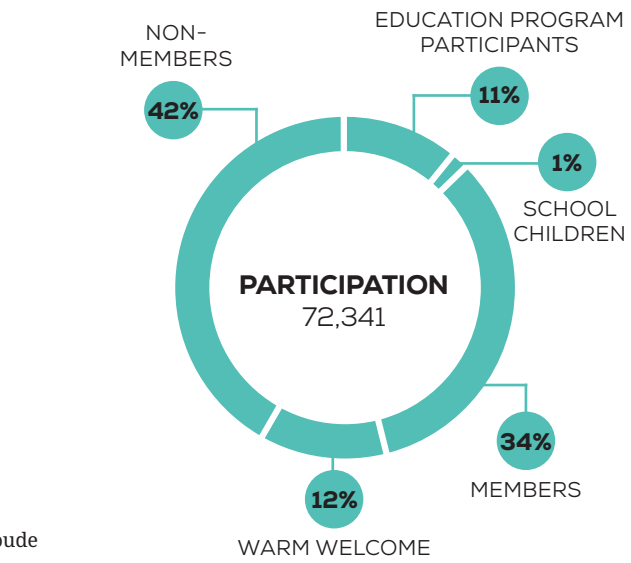
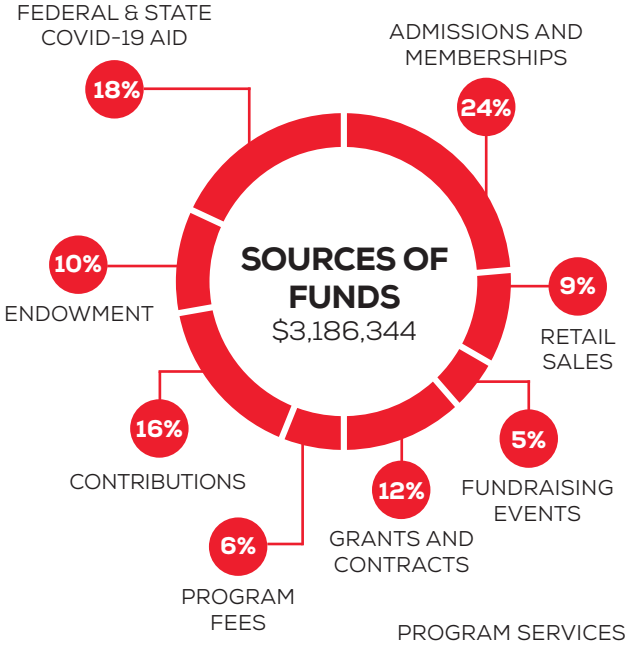
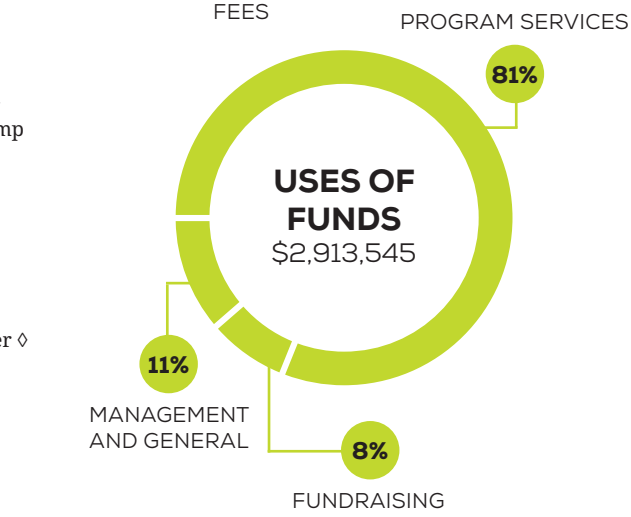
2021 MAJOR **SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS**







These charts illustrate major sources and uses of funds comprising the Montshire's operating budget for the fiscal year that ended 9/30/21.

Note: "Use of Funds" does not include capital depreciation. This information is taken from our preliminary year-end financial report. Copies of our audited financial statements, prepared by our auditors, Tyler, Simms & St. Sauveur, P.C., will be available in February 2022. Please contact the Development Office at the Museum to request a copy.

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We work hard to carefully review and proofread our lists and apologize if names are inadvertently omitted or misspelled. If there is an error, please contact the Montshire Development Office at 802-649-2200.

Honorary Gifts

The Montshire is pleased to share honorary gifts received in fiscal year 2021, a number of which were made in response to a Women in Science *challenge during the* Fiddlehead Fling Reimagined *virtual event on May 7.*

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Katherine Nautiyal Bulthuis, in honor of all the current and future science moms for their resilience in spite of all the challenges we face
Gina des Cognets, in honor of my daughters Eliza and Annabel and the joy of science for all girls and women everywhere
David H. and Lisa T. Craig, in honor of Anne Charron
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Dean and Mary Feldman, in honor of our three daughters who love science
Jennifer Ferland, in honor of Reed Ferland
David Finley, in honor of Jennifer Stableford, a great woman, physician, surgeon, and mother
Jennifer Stableford, in honor of Nancy Stableford, my grandmother who was a biologist and teacher
David Ray Fluharty and Vickie Marie Fluharty, in honor of Gabriel Hall
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Michele Tine, in honor of my fabulous and fierce daughter
Charlie and Nancy Trautmann, in honor of David Goudy and Susan Gallagher

Montshire Now & Next

Montshire Now & Next was a special impact fund established to help the museum confront the fiscal and programmatic challenges caused by the ongoing pandemic during fiscal year 2021. We are grateful to 152 donors, along with the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation for its challenge gift, which raised $178,517. These unrestricted funds enabled the Montshire to be nimble, innovative, and responsive in a continually changing learning environment. All donors are listed.

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Montshire River Society members experience the Montshire through a series of special events and programs, as well as the highest level of membership privileges. These donors provide vital support to exhibit development, outreach efforts, and educational programs.

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In Memoriam

We were saddened to say goodbye to two individuals who made meaningful and lasting contributions to the Montshire Museum of Science.

Marilyn Hunter, who together with her late husband, established the Windsor & Marilyn Hunter Endowment for School Partnerships to strengthen science instruction in rural schools.

Winnifred Zappala, a devoted volunteer who assisted the Museum's Magic Carpet program and other endeavors.

Memorial Gifts

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The following donors have informed the Montshire that they have included the museum in their estate plans through a bequest, bequest intention, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or life income gift.

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Extend your support into the future! By including the Montshire in your will or estate plans, you will continue to have an impact on your community beyond your lifetime. At the same time, some gift planning options offer you income or tax benefits. There are many reasons to start or update your estate plans—a new child, a new job, an empty nest, or simply the desire to make a difference. We encourage you to name the Montshire among the beneficiaries of your plans. For more information, visit montshire.org/support.

If you have left the Montshire a provision of any kind in your estate plan and would like to be recognized for your generosity, please contact the Development Office for a confidential conversation at 802-649-2200, ext. 225.

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MONTSHIRE
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Montshire Museum of Science is an award-winning interactive museum in Norwich, Vermont. Located on a 110-acre site near the Connecticut River, the museum offers over 150 exhibits relating to the natural and physical sciences, ecology, and technology, as well as an outdoor space that features miles of trails, the David Goudy Science Park, and nature exhibits.

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