

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cedarhurst donors establish Friends of Beck Family Center Fund to help care for interactive learning space

MT. VERNON, Illinois - Cedarhurst Center for the Arts announced Thursday, October 21 the creation of the Beck Family Center Endowment Fund, a special fund to help preserve the Beck Family Center for future generations.

“At 13 years young, we have already done one major makeover of the family center space,” said Jennifer Sarver, Director of Education. “The fact that it is so well loved and so frequently utilized means that it will need regular care and renovation in order to keep the space fresh and welcoming for future generations.”

Bill and Barbara Beck, for whom the center is named, established the Friends Fund with a \$125,000 investment, and a reception was held in their honor on Thursday. At that time, the Becks offered a challenge to generate additional monies for the Friends Fund, offering to match any donations made to the fund in the next 30 days, up to \$25,000.

“Barb and I have been blessed in our lives, and we really feel that to give back to this community is what makes it our community,” said Bill Beck. “We are just so honored to be able to do this for Cedarhurst so this space can continue to serve families for years to come.”

“We are so grateful for the Becks’ continued investment in this space, which serves as an educational anchor within our community,” said Hillary Esser, Executive Director. “They set such a wonderful example for our community and have truly created a lasting legacy with the Beck Family Center.”

Esser said the Beck Family Center Endowment Fund is set up so that the corpus will never be used. Instead, monies earned through the Fund will accrue each year and become the seed money for future renovation projects.

“It is our hope to grow the Fund so it has the ability to fully fund future renovations,” Esser said. “We want to ensure that the family center continues to be a coveted resource for students, families and anyone who visits Cedarhurst. It truly is a place to create, play, and connect through the arts.”

General admission to Cedarhurst, including the Beck Family Center, is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm, and Sundays from 1 to 5pm.

Anyone interested in donating to the Match Challenge issued by the Becks, or in making a financial gift to Cedarhurst, can contact Hillary Esser at 618-242-1236 Ext 228 or hillary@cedarhurst.org. Find more information about museum programs at www.cedarhurst.org.