

The Children's Museum, located in Baggs Square East in downtown Utica NY, has 4 floors w/100's of interactive educationally enjoyable hands-on exhibits. **Marlene Brown & Earl secured over 60% of the exhibits in the 15+** years they were involved with the museum. Originally a Board member, then asked to be Executive Director, Marlene was initially hired at \$59,000. a year. When she learned how in debt the museum was from the previous director, **she signed a Board contract she would temporarily forgo salary**, until such time as the museum could give her all her back pay owed. She has not yet received that.

A **successful area teacher & professor** for many years; Marlene had **traveled world-wide** as a Business Futurist, **Chartered one of 14 Rotary eClubs** authorized by Rotary Int'l; was **Elected 2007-08 District Governor** of Rotary District 7150 (3rd CNY women to hold this honor); **Traveled to India at her own expense** to take part in the ribbon cutting of a Rotary woman's computer school (giving them skills to go from begging to working to support their children); **Traveled to Haiti at her own expense** to begin a water project; was asked in 1999 to **create a Children's Museum website**, which she did at no cost to the museum.

In 2000 she was asked to join the Board, eventually Serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Children's Museum; Through her tireless efforts over the 15 years she oversaw the Children's Museum operations, was instrumental in opening additional floors, growing exhibits & offerings for school children, families, tourists; Securing grants to renovate the building; Marlene & Earl started a **\$10,000 personal Endowment Fund** at The Community Foundation for future use by The Children's Museum.

Our gratitude for the **following awards we were given: In 2001** Marlene was 1 of 20 recipients awarded the 1st CNY Outstanding Women in Business Awards. **In 2005**, Marlene was one of 20 recipients awarded the 1st Mohawk Valley Outstanding Women in Business Awards. **In 2007**, Marlene completed the paperwork to get the museum declared a NYS and Federal Historic Building in order to save it from being torn down; **In 2011**, Marlene was chosen as YWCA's Outstanding Woman Leader in Arts & Communication. In **2012**, was chosen Co-Recipient of the Mayor's Ball. **In 2012**, she was recipient of the Landmarks Society of the Utica NY area Restoration award. **In 2013**, Marlene was inducted into the Seneca Falls Woman's Hall of Fame.

Our greatest accomplishments: Keeping the doors open (as some wanted the building for its uniqueness & great location), bringing in more school, daycare, family & tourist visitors, adding new & exciting exhibits or building improvements each year with grants Marlene secured; in 2002, opening our 4th floor (which originally was just a storage area with no electricity) and were **adopted by NASA's Administrator O'Keefe & Dept of Energy's Director Orbach.**