

V I S T A S



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From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director

DEAR FLINT HILLS FRIENDS,

*Welcome to 2019, and what a year it's going to be for the
FHDC FOUNDATION!*

Photo of MARTY.....

We're ringing in 2019 with much enthusiasm for what the Foundation achieved in 2018, and what is to come this new year. Because volunteers and donors make such an impact on the life of our organization, it's appropriate we start the year by announcing the **2019 FRIEND OF THE FLINT HILLS recipient. This year we honor Marty Vanier!** The Foundation Board chose to recognize Marty for her vision and belief in the work that the Flint Hills Discovery Center provides to the Manhattan community, the entire Flint Hills region, the state of Kansas and the nation. Marty exemplifies the philanthropic spirit that help communities grow and provide a quality of life for residents and visitors.

Marty joins previous Friend of the Flint Hills honorees: **Jane Koger**, 2012; **Brian Obermeyer**, 2013; **Kansas State University**, 2014; **Jim & Cathy Hoy**, 2015; **Nancy Kassebaum**, 2016; **Symphony in the Flint Hills**, 2017; and **Scott and Carol Ritchie**, 2018. *We are grateful for these exceptional advocates of the last stand of tallgrass prairie in North America.*

The Foundation Board will honor Marty at the **8th Friend of the Flint Hills** annual event on **Saturday night, April 6, 2019**, in Manhattan. Further information will be forthcoming as there will be additional exciting news announced from the Foundation!

Dedicated donors make the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation effective in its support of the Discovery Center. One such donor is Ralph Diaz, proprietor of the *Winged Lion* at 3rd and Poyntz in downtown Manhattan. Early on Ralph recognized the value that the Discovery Center would add to our city and the Flint Hills region. In 2011, Ralph encouraged others to join with him in donating funds to be given for the benefit of the Discovery Center. Those funds were used to purchase 16 iPads for the education department in 2015. The iPads are still in use today in youth classroom activities and outside the walls of FHDC during field trips.

Photo of Ralph and check below.....

Ralph again showed his generosity and philanthropic commitment by encouraging grassroots donations from the followers of Jonathan Mertz's Facebook page. Jonathan is the Event Supervisor at the Discovery Center, and each year he reminds his followers that a \$25 donation can provide free admission to a child at one of the events such as Flint Hills Festival, National Day of the Cowboy, Breakfast with Santa or the New Year's Eve Celebration. Children who are staying at the Manhattan Emergency Shelter Inc., or are affiliated with the local Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Boys and Girls Club of Manhattan are provided a free admission to one of these events on an as-available basis. **This year, Ralph provided a \$500 challenge grant to match donations during the free admission donation drive. Thank you Ralph! Please be sure and tell Ralph thank you the next time you see him out and about in the community!**

4,007 is a record! In 2018, 4,007 individuals joined or renewed their membership at the Flint Hills Discovery Center! This marked the first time in the seven year history of the Discovery Center that membership eclipsed 4,000. **A big welcome to all our new members, and thank you to all who renewed;** we appreciate your continued support!

If things got a little busy over the holidays and you forgot to send your donation for, **"Our Flint Hills, Our Future"** annual fund drive sponsored by the Foundation to benefit the FHDC education department, you still can via mail or this PayPal link, www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/468/Giving. These funds are used by the education department to develop exciting and interesting educational programs for the entire year for children 2-12 years of age.

Work will be underway on the Horizon Ranch Immersive Experience Theater projection equipment from January 14 to 25. You will recall that new updated projectors will be installed which will enhance the **Tides of Time** film and allow for more diverse films to be shown in the theater. The new short films will be educational in nature. During this time the FHDC will be offering reduced admission rates as the theater will not be available.

The **Bison, Wolves and the Wildlands and the Konza Quilters Guild Exhibits** will close at 5:00p.m. on Sunday, January 13. If you haven't been in - you must see these three exhibits before they leave!

Opening on Saturday, January 26, will be the new spring exhibits **Framed Step into Art in the Tallgrass Gallery and Storyland on the Mezzanine**. For more information about these new exhibits go to: www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/545/Coming-soon-Framed-Step-into-Art.

Another year! The Flint Hills Discovery Center and the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation will be celebrating their 7th anniversary on April 14, 2019! **Thanks to the support of each of you**, both the Discovery Center and the Foundation are making great strides in providing a facility that is inviting to all, and offers a unique, state-of-the-art interactive, hands-on learning venue that shares the story of the place, the people and the promise that is the Flint Hills!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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VISTAS, a monthly memo, is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Discovery Center's unique and dynamic mission.

Read VISTAS Memo, now online at the FHDC website, <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/467/Vistas-Memo>. The Foundation's pages are located within the FHDC website, so be sure and take time to browse other sections of the FHDC website to keep up with all the activities happening at the Foundation and the Discovery Center