

Childhood should be a joy. It should be an adventure, an opportunity to explore.

But today's kids have little time for free play ... they are overscheduled, isolated, overwhelmed by social media.

Children today are stressed out.

That is where the Discovery Museum comes in.

What we offer is a recipe for combatting the challenges facing our kids.

Here kids find real materials for hands-on, open-ended learning.

We are not prescribing a right or a wrong.

Kids here are free to explore, form their own hypothesis, test things, and discover how the real world works.

The skills kids are going to need in the future are all about being creative, innovative, and being great problem-solvers.

And those are the skills that are learned and practiced when kids get to use their natural-born curiosity.

Parents are kids' first teachers. They have an enormous impact on how kids learn. And at the Discovery Museum parents and their children have a chance to spend time together creating, experimenting, having fun.

The lack of connection to nature creates a whole host of physical and mental health issues for kids. Discovery Woods helps reintroduce families to the fun of spending time outside together.

And those solar panels ... they are our way of showing we share the responsibility of caring for the planet. We don't just talk about it. We live it.

Our goal is not just to be great but to be great for every kid. We do that in a whole lot of ways.

Out of the more than 250,000 people we serve, more than a quarter come without charge.

We make sure kids of all abilities are able to experience the museum. Our campus was designed to be fully accessible.

And we take our show on the road. Last year we were in over 2,600 elementary school classrooms, reached more than 50,000 kids with hands-on science. That's a remarkable number.

The lesson of the Discovery Museum is that you can do a lot on four-and-a-half acres in a small suburban town.

You can do a lot to fight the forces that are impacting kids today. By investing in this museum, you are investing in a place where kids get to be kids.

Where once again, childhood is a joy.