



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE MAGIC HOUSE RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT
FROM THE MICHAEL AND QUIRSIS RINEY FAMILY**

Contribution to Update Popular Exhibits at The Magic House and to Support MADE for Kids

ST LOUIS (January 6, 2022) – The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum, is pleased to announce a leadership gift from Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney that completes the Museum's 2017 – 2021 Reimagining Our Future Comprehensive Campaign. The funds will be used to update one of the museum's most popular exhibits, which will be renamed the Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Family Children's Village, as well as to create a new early childhood STEM exhibit, named for the donors' children, the Simple Machines Ship. A portion of the gift will also support The Magic House's satellite location in the City of St. Louis, MADE for Kids.

"The Magic House is so grateful to the Rineys for their charitable support and commitment to The Magic House," said Beth Fitzgerald, President of the Magic House. "Because of their generosity, we are able to create new hands-on learning experiences for children and families to enjoy for many years to come."

The **Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Family Children's Village** originally opened in 1997 and has been well-loved by millions of visitors over the past 25 years. The child-size town was designed to support collaborative play between children of all backgrounds and abilities as well as spark children's interests in possible career choices and the importance of community. This iconic environment includes a market, bank, hospital, pet clinic, restaurant, electric company, fishing pond and more and will be updated during 2022.

The new **Simple Machines Ship** is located within Wonder Works, the early childhood STEM playground designed for children 1 to 8 years. The Simple Machines Ship invites imaginative play while bringing to life the six simple machines taught in early elementary STEM curriculum. In the Simple Machines Ship, children can raise the ship's flag with a pulley, enter the ship on an inclined plane ramp and use a wheel-and-axle wheelbarrow and conveyor belt to load the ship.

The Magic House, MADE for Kids Design Lab will be sponsored by The Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Family. Opened in 2019, MADE for Kids is a 7,000 sq ft makerspace that features a Makers Workshop, Artist Studio, Design Lab and Entrepreneurs Marketplace where kids can create, invent, tinker, explore and discover. MADE for Kids is designed for kids ages 4-14 and located at 5127 Delmar Boulevard two blocks west of Kingshighway in the Sherman Park - Academy Neighborhood in the City of St. Louis.

About The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

The Magic House is a not-for-profit participatory museum that provides hands-on learning experiences that spark imagination, pique curiosity, enhance creativity and develop problem-solving skills within a place of beauty, wonder, joy and magic. Serving more than 550,000 visitors annually, The Magic House opened in 1979 and has 55,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits. In 2019, the Museum opened an all-new satellite makerspace in the City of St. Louis on Delmar Boulevard, located between the Central West End and the Delmar Loop. For additional information, please call or text 314.822.8900 or visit The Magic House online at www.magichouse.org.

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