



Integrated
Community
Alternatives
Network

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Utica Children’s Museum is Relocating: Cultivating Learning and Amplifying Local History

Utica, New York (March 4, 2020) – ICAN (Integrated Community Alternatives Network) announces plans to relocate the Utica Children’s Museum from Bagg’s Square to a more centralized, state-of-the-art family center on the Parkway.

Formerly Kids Oneida, ICAN’s not-for-profit scope offers family resources for every step of life, from prenatal to end-of-life care. Similarities between populations and communities served led ICAN and the Utica Children’s Museum to enter into a managed service contract in 2017, advancing the natural partnership. As recipients of a 2018 Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Award, ICAN and the Utica Children’s Museum move forward with the vision of cultivating every child’s curiosity and creativity through a new, interactive learning environment that is family-focused and engaging for all ages.

Founded in 1963, the Utica Children’s Museum stands as one of the oldest children’s museums across the country. As local residents note, the museum offers a space “for children to explore and truly lets kids be kids while using their own creative minds.” This evolution of the Utica Children’s Museum will reinvent the hands-on-learning experience with exhibits that ignite creativity and boost social engagement while strengthening family bonds. The museum’s relocation will allow for the transformation from an antiquated museum space to a modernized childhood learning center that champions the goals of sustainable community growth and individual/familial empowerment for generations to come. ICAN looks forward to working with nationally renowned museum and architect teams to reinvent a family discovery space that nurtures childhood growth, creativity, and inspiration in the heart of Utica.

Staying true to local roots, Steve Bulger, executive director of ICAN, ensures due diligence was executed in the plans for both the relocation of the Utica Children’s Museum and the preservation of the historic John C. Hieber Building that the Children’s Museum departs. Both are set to be local gems, bolstering the area’s current success and future advancement.



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About ICAN

Integrated Community Alternatives Network, or ICAN, a not-for-profit organization, is a unique home and community-based network that provides individualized and non-traditional services and care to the highest risk youth, families and adults, with social, emotional, mental health and behavioral challenges. Serving over 1,500 families across 16 programs in six counties, ICAN has been a mainstay in the Central New York community for over 20 years.

About Utica Children's Museum

The Utica Children's Museum is an educational nonprofit organization dedicated to offering an environment that supports every child's natural curiosity to learn through hands-on, play-based exploration. With over 55 years of history, the Utica Children's Museum is one of the oldest children's museums in the country.

For more information, contact Morgen Irwin at (315) 797-7970 ext. 116. For additional media materials, visit www.ican.family/ucm.

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Our Story

Keeping Families Together

Integrated Community Alternatives Network, or ICAN, a not-for-profit organization, is a unique home and community-based network that provides individualized and non-traditional services and care to the highest risk youth, families and adults, with social, emotional, mental health and behavioral challenges. Serving over 1,500 families across 16 programs in six counties, ICAN has been a mainstay in the Central New York community for over 20 years.

Our Philosophy

How We Help You

ICAN was established based on the principles of Wraparound services, philosophy and model of care. This approach to children's mental health has gained both statewide and national attention as an extremely effective way to keep families together. It is now generally accepted that the most effective approach to addressing a severely emotionally disturbed child's needs is through a coordinated community-based team of support rather than an out-of-home placement.

Treatment plans, utilizing the Wraparound approach, are developed as a team with the individual or family, focusing on their strengths and the goals they choose to address.

We at ICAN have consistently demonstrated that positive outcomes can be achieved, despite significant trauma, mental illness and psychosocial stressors through this strength and team-based approach.



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Timeline

Mid 90's

Oneida County's Department of Social Services and Mental Health began to consider ways in which out-of-home placements of children with serious emotional disturbances could be decreased.

1996

Oneida County was awarded a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson grant to be used as seed money for the start-up of the program.

1997

Integrated Community Alternative Network (ICAN), a non-profit care management entity, was established.

1998

A decade after the first discussions were initiated, Kids Oneida began full operation when it was licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health as an Article 31 (Parts 587/588) outpatient clinic with a number of waiver provisions.

2007

ICAN's name was changed to Kids Oneida, Inc. It continues to be funded through a number of sources including the Oneida County Department of Social Services, Medicaid and individualized service only contracts.

2012

Kids Oneida was deemed by the New York State Office of Mental Health as the first KO/ACT Waiver Demonstration Project in New York State.

2017

Kids Oneida celebrated 20-year anniversary.

2019

Today, we have rebranded our organization back to ICAN from Kids Oneida, because we are no longer "just kids" and no longer "just Oneida." We have come full circle to close the gaps in services in our area as well as the continuum of care, in that we now serve prenatally through the end of life in more than 6 counties, and the possibilities for us are endless!



Our Story

Support and Encourage Child Curiosity

The Utica Children's Museum is an educational nonprofit organization dedicated to offering an environment that supports every child's natural curiosity to learn through hands-on, play-based exploration. With over 55 years of history, the Utica Children's Museum is one of the oldest children's museum's in the country.

Originally named The Children's Museum of History, Natural History, and Science, the current-day Utica Children's Museum offers approximately 60 exhibits and experiences throughout 4 floors of play space. In 2002, The Children's Museum became the only museum to be adopted by the National Aeronautic & Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Energy's Office of Science (DOE OS).



Timeline

1963

The Junior League founded the Museum and its first home was the basement of the Utica Public Library. Its original name was the Junior Museum of Oneida County and there was one exhibit - an Iroquois Longhouse you can still see on our second floor.

1965

The Museum moved to the former Department of Parks & Recreation Building at the southeast corner of the Memorial Parkway and Oneida Street.

1974

The Museum moved to the upstairs of the Valley View Country Club and in 1975 changed its name to the Mohawk Valley Museum.

1979

The Museum moved to its current location, the former John C. Heiber Dry Goods Building at 311 Main Street. Exhibits were on the first floor and half of the second floor.

2002

The Museum opened the fourth floor and was adopted by the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Energy's Office of Science (DOE OS).

2007

The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2017

The Museum and Kids Oneida entered into a managed service contract and are currently planning for the future!