Dallas Arboretum
8617 Garland Road
Dallas TX 75218-3914

Dallas Arboretum
Let nature nurture you.

An invitation to Join Us in the Most Exciting Adventure to ever come to Dallas!

The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden

The children of America are lagging behind in science education and a generation of children glued to TV sets and keyboards is lacking in knowledge of, and appreciation for, the amazing world of nature. This is especially true for our urban children.

The degreed teachers on staff at the Arboretum served nearly 80,000 children in 2008, more than any other large botanical garden in the country.

Your financial support of this seven acre outdoor learning laboratory will help improve children's understanding of science and help foster in them a love of nature and a sense of stewardship toward the environment.

The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden will ...

- Reinforce and enrich national and state science education standards in a manner not possible in a classroom.
- Provide an enjoyable and rewarding educational experience for North Texas families in a fun and beautiful environment.
- Provide focused science support to underserved children in the area's lowest performing schools.
- Provide substantial support to science teachers, particularly elementary school teachers, who most often do not have degrees in science.

Hundreds of key leaders, from school superintendents, college professors and administrators, corporate CEOs as well as local and national elected officials, endorse and support this Adventure Garden and are committed to seeing it become a reality.

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For further information:
8617 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218-3914
214-515-6500
www.dallasarboretum.org

Share The Wonder of Nature

The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden

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Welcoming Children to the Wonders of Nature

The **Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden** will expand the legendary beauty of the Dallas Arboretum in a new seven-acre outdoor laboratory that will delight and enlighten children of all ages.

The new garden's 15 indoor and outdoor classrooms will include: Pure Energy, First Adventure, The Incredible Edible Garden, Living Cycles, Earth Cycles and...

The Discovery Center

This 9,100 square-foot facility will employ innovative exhibits and interactive technology to engage children in all aspects of life and earth science exploration.

Texas Skywalk & Habitats

A walk through the treetops will expand children's views of habitats and provide them with the opportunity to learn about the interconnectedness of nature.

The Wild Wetlands Walk

This wetland wonderland features floating bridges, boardwalks through grass tunnels and a secluded wildlife blind that will give children an experience of discovery in a new ecosystem.

Plants are Alive

In a 'Honey I Shrunk the Kids' world, this inside look at the life of plants will help our youngest visitors explore and discover how plants live and grow.

Your Participation is the Key ...

You can share the love of the natural world with children of all ages by supporting the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. Please help our children experience the wonder and joy of nature by sending the most generous gift you can today.

Thank you!

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My Gift to Share the Wonder...

❏ **YES!** I want to make the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden a reality for the children of our region and visitors to our city. Here's my gift to help build this new science adventure garden.

❏ $xxx
❏ $xxx
❏ $xxx
❏ Other $_____

Return this slip in the enclosed envelope.

XXXXX Code XXXXX

❏ I have enclosed a check made payable to DABS.
❏ Please charge my credit card:
❏ MasterCard ❏Visa ❏ AmEx ❏ Discover
Credit Card No. _____
Expiration Date: (mm/yy) _____
Signature: _____

Mr. John Q. Sample
May Development Services
200 Pemberwick Road
Greenwich, CT 06830-6789

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Dear Mr. Sample,

We are sure you're familiar with the Dallas Arboretum, a unique place of beauty and serenity, widely recognized as one of the leading display gardens in America, and an important educational center as well.

Now the Arboretum is on the verge of becoming even greater as we move forward with plans for The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden – a children's science garden so grand and so magical it will set the gold standard for outdoor educational facilities nationwide.

This wonderful, imaginative new Children's Garden will raise the level of science education in our region for years to come. As you know, science scores of American children are the lowest of all academic areas tested, with earth sciences the lowest of all. Our Children's Adventure Garden will benefit North Texas children, families and educators, and will address this urgent need with an innovative approach to teaching science.

This new seven acre Children's Adventure Garden will feature 15 different learning areas developed to meet and exceed the state and national science education standards in unique and creative ways. Surrounded by nature and with 150 engaging exhibits, students will learn about ecosystems, adaptations, habitats and the interactions between plants and animals. And they will have lots of fun learning!

We are especially looking forward to the "Discovery Center" – with interactive technology developed by SMU, the "Pure Energy" outdoor classroom – where children can truly make power come alive from solar, water and wind sources, "The Amazing Secret Garden," the "Texas Skywalk," and the "Wild Wetland Walk" just to name a few.

We hope you'll want to support this vital project. The new Children's Adventure Garden will help meet the need for better science education for our region's children. It will help lead young people to a commitment to good stewardship of our environment. And it will give to our city a major attraction for our citizens and visitors from across the nation.

(over, please)

Dallas Arboretum

Did you know?

- Educators generally agree that life and earth science are the foundation of all future science learning and that it is important to reach children early. Unfortunately, science test scores in Texas are the lowest of any academic area tested, and earth science is the lowest of all.
- More than 80,000 children attended science and nature classes at the Dallas Arboretum in 2008, and that number will grow to more than 100,000 upon completion of the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden.
- Among all of our nation's large botanical gardens, we can already boast the most successful children's educational program.
- Last year, 16,000 economically disadvantaged students received free science programming from the arboretum education staff. The Arboretum has a long-standing history of commitment to lower-performing schools, helping them to improve understanding and test scores in science.
- There are special naming opportunities available for a gift of $5,000 or more. For information, please contact Mimi Crabtree at 214.515.6603.
- For further information on why your gift is so critical and the importance of this project to our city, please visit our website at www.dallasarboretum.org.

NOW FOR THE MOST EXCITING NEWS: Rory Meyers, along with her family, has given the botanic garden a 15 million dollar challenge grant. This grant requires that we meet a $44 million dollar goal in pledges by the end of 2009. Though we're well on our way, the deadline is fast approaching.

We are writing today to ask for your support for this project. You can help complete this unique learning laboratory of nature, designed to fascinate young people and the adults who join them in exploration.

The Dallas Arboretum is already recognized as a world-class educational center. In 2008, nearly 80,000 school children participated in life and earth science classes taught by the Arboretum's degreed teachers. And our educational programs work! Objective, outside evaluation has shown significant improvement in the test scores of students in our programs – sometimes as much as 50%!

Now, The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden will greatly expand the educational resources of the Dallas Arboretum. It will be a place we can all be proud of. We know you will want to bring relatives and visitors to show off what will be one of the world's most spectacular children's outdoor science centers. But first, we must raise the money to meet this $44 million dollar challenge before the end of this year.

Please send the most generous gift you can so that this rare opportunity doesn't slip away from us. With your help, we will give our region a major, unique science education center and keep the joy and discovery of real science alive in our children.

Thank you for your support of this important new resource for the children of our community.

Most sincerely,

Mary Brinegar
President,
Dallas Arboretum

Cecile Bonte
Capital Campaign Chair,
Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden

P.S. Please send your gift today. Remember, if the challenge is not met, our city and its children will miss out on an exceptional center of learning and discovery that is within our reach. Thank you for your serious consideration.