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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Museum To Close Briefly For Phase I Move

Museum closing for two weeks to shift operations to new location at The Outlet Shoppes

BURLINGTON, WA – After almost six months of design, re-design, deconstruction and construction, Phase I of the new Children's Museum space is ready at The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington! The Children's Museum will close the Cascade Mall location at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2019. To mark the end of the Museum's time at the Cascade Mall there will be a Going Away Party from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2019 - join Museum staff and administrators in saying goodbye to the Museum's home of nearly 11 years.

The Children's Museum of Skagit County will re-open in approximately 8,500 square feet of the new space at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2019. During the closure, staff and volunteers will move and set up all of the Museum's day-to-day administration and operations at The Outlet Shoppes. Demolition of permanent fixtures at the Cascade Mall location will follow to allow for large exhibit pieces such as the boat, crane and other items to be moved. Phase II construction at The Outlet Shoppes will continue until the remaining 7,000 square feet are complete, with an anticipated late-spring 2019 Grand Opening.

"Our upcoming move to The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington is an exciting new chapter for the Children's Museum of Skagit County! The new facility will offer refreshed and new exhibits, built-in safety components, and greater program capacity," said Children's Museum Executive Director Cate Anderson. "CMSC is a dynamic organization; serving record breaking numbers of visitors and member families, along with program and event expansions. We've had a great ten plus years at the Cascade Mall, and are grateful for the time and partnership that we enjoyed while the museum was located here."

"Shopping is the number 1 activity for tourists in the U.S." said Gary Skoien, CEO of Horizon Group Properties, owner and manager of The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington. "So it made all the sense in the world to us to bring a first class children's museum to our center so that our guests can experience the wonders of the museum and museum visitors can include shopping our center as part of their overall experience. We look forward to partnering with The Children's Museum in promoting the Skagit Valley area as a shopping and tourist destination."

A new home

The Children's Museum will go from occupying 11,000 square feet to 15,400 square feet, which will include a larger toy store area, refreshed and new exhibits, Family Resource Room, party/classroom space, preschool, breast-feeding room, family restrooms, and community meeting space.

The mission of the Children's Museum of Skagit County is to promote, encourage and increase an understanding of the arts, science, culture and literature among the children, youth, families and educators in Skagit County and beyond.

The Museum directorship, staff, volunteers and supporters are excited to have developed the new space in a meaningful way to continue growing their programs and events. Enhanced exhibits and learning opportunities, improved spaces for STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to encourage critical thinking skills, imagination, creativity, and social-emotional development are all part of those plans. In addition, the Museum's successful preschool program will have a larger classroom space. The museum's scholarship program will continue to serve the needs of children and families, and their partnership with more than 35 organizations and institutions will continue to flourish in this new space.

"Bigger. Better. Brighter. Relocation Campaign" Under Way

Moving and developing a new facility takes time and significant financial support. The Children's Museum of Skagit County's "Bigger. Better. Brighter. Relocation Campaign," which is necessary to fund the costs of the new museum build out and relocation costs is under way and still accepting financial and in-kind support. To date, 25% of the \$924,000 needed has been raised. Donations to this campaign can be made to the Children's Museum of Skagit County or directly to their donation account at any Skagit Bank/Banner Bank branch in the region.

About The Children's Museum of Skagit County

The Children's Museum of Skagit County is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) that opened in Mount Vernon in 2003. The mission of the museum is to provide an interactive learning environment to promote, encourage and increase an understanding of the arts, science and culture among children, youth, families and educators in Skagit County. The Museum is open seven days a week. To learn more about our hours of operations, membership, scholarships, events, camps, classes, parties, volunteering, supporting and more visit the Museum website at SkagitChildrensMuseum.net or call (360) 757 8888.

About The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington

The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington is a 175,000 square foot outdoor shopping center, located on I-5, the only North-South route between Seattle and Vancouver and is the exclusive outlet destination in Skagit County. The center serves residents of the Burlington, WA MSA with a population of 2.3+ million, visitors from Canada, and tourists visiting the area for kayaking, whale-watching, sailing, birding, fishing, snowboarding, ski-ing, hiking, biking and year-round festivals.

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