

Roberts named leader of Busy Brains museum

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Mundelein resident Brent Roberts was recently named as the new president of Busy Brains Children's Museum. The museum is looking for a permanent spot.

Picture a place where children's imaginations can run wild, a place where learning happens through fun, and a place where families can come to enjoy quality time.

That spot exists in Busy Brains Children's Museum, which is planned to open in Lake County in late 2009. The museum is one step closer to being ready to open after recently naming its new president.

On July 1, Brent Roberts of Mundelein was named president for Busy Brains. Roberts has been with the museum since 2006 as a volunteer member of the marketing committee, and his new role also is a volunteer position.

"We're progressing very well," Roberts said. "The main goal is to provide an educational location for children 10 and younger in Lake County."

Busy Brains was started by Alison Price and Kathy Goers in 2003 and provides children with interactive exhibits that have Lake County aspects and focus on science, arts and the humanities.

While staff members continue to look for a permanent location for the museum, they bring the exhibits to different places in and around Lake County for birthday parties, field trips and corporate events.

Having Roberts as the museum's leader was a natural fit, Goers said.

"He's a very passionate and hardworking individual," she said. "He's brought in more volunteers, and the organization will continue to grow under his leadership."

Roberts, who works full time with the public relations firm Merton G. Silbar in Glenview, can't wait to get started and watch the museum flourish.

"Lake County is a terrific area for young families," he said. "So to have a museum that services those families is very important for the county."

Price said Roberts' experience in public relations and his personality will help him make Busy Brains a success.

"He's going to do great," she said. "He's totally committed to the organization and totally understands the vision we have. He has the passion, excitement, enthusiasm and professionalism to take Busy Brains to the next level."

Price, executive director of the museum, said Busy Brains is still searching for a spot, but no matter where it ends up, she hopes it will be "the destination for Lake County families and visitors."

She added that she and Goers, director of education for the museum, came up with the idea for Busy Brains while teaching at Lincoln Elementary School.

"We knew there aren't a lot of field-trip locations nearby," she said. "For young children, there aren't a lot of places to go in the winter."

After they both had children, Goers said, they understood the need for a place like Busy Brains even more. And they couldn't be happier to have Roberts on their team.

"I'm so excited to have him here," Goers said. "I truly think he came in at the perfect time."