

Community Invited To Celebrate The Survive Alive House At Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum, Open House

Saturday, May 17th at 1:00-5:00pm, the community will come together to celebrate 30 years of teaching fire safety at Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum, Survive Alive at 1402 S. Main Street, Mishawaka. The event will be an open house that is free and open to the public. Families are invited to tour the museum, play games, win prizes and learn about fire safety from Mishawaka Fire Depart-

ment firefighters.

The Survive Alive House was the first permanent structure dedicated to teaching kids fire safety in the state of Indiana. Its mission has been to give kids the tools that they need to escape a burning house safely and the confidence to make good choices if they were faced with this dangerous situation. To celebrate its many years of fulfilling this mission, the community is invited to join in this special open house hosted by Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum. Fun activities for all ages will be found at the event as well as treats and free admission to the Museum. At the event enter a drawing for a chance to win a ride on a fire truck during this year's Mishawaka Memorial Day parade. Special guests from the Mishawaka Fire Department, Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum, the School City of Mishawaka and PTA will give a short presentation at 3:00pm.

Museum Director, Lexie Schroeder commented, "We look forward to celebrating the success of Survive Alive and the tradition of fire safety education which continues to provide kids with the knowledge and confidence that they can use to make good choices if faced with a fire."

When asked about the impact of Survive Alive, Mishawaka Fire Chief Dale Freeman commented, "Since its inception tens of thousands of students have toured the facility. While it is hard to determine how many lives have been saved by the instruction provided, we continue to be approached by adults who tell us what an impact the house and the program have made in their lives. Many of our current firefighters began a career in the fire service when they first went through the program, and continue to be its biggest advocates. Thirty years ago it was the first of its kind. The program has been modeled by countless other departments nationwide from its humble beginnings in Mishawaka. Homes and other material things can always be replaced. Lives are precious and can never be replaced."

Survive Alive tours are lead by Mishawaka Fire Fighters for ages 1st grade through 5th grade. In an average year over 60 individual tours are given, reaching more than 1,800 school age children in the local area annually. It is estimated that over 50,000 children have received fire safety training through the Survive Alive House.

In 1984, the Survive Alive House was



installed in the old gymnasium of Emmons Elementary School and what was then the new home of Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum. The Survive Alive House has been a collaborative project from the beginning, involving Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum, the Mishawaka Fire Department, the PTA of School City of Mishawaka and many interested community members.

For more information about this event please visit www.hlcm.org