



Santa Claus greets hundreds at Children's Museum

By **ROBERT BRAUCHLE** Observer-Dispatch Posted Nov 27, 2010 @ 02:14 PM

UTICA — Any anxiety Rowan Mahoney had about approaching Santa Claus on Saturday at the Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science & Technology was lost once the 2-year-old found a nearby play area filled with Legos. "He was a little shy," said Rowan's father, Kevin. "We came up here for the holidays, and it seemed like a good day to plan coming here."

The Rowan family was among some 100 families that attended the museum's Holiday on Main Street party Saturday morning. Santa and Mrs. Claus were stationed on the museum's third floor, between the Legos and Natural Sciences displays.

The elder Rowan, who grew up in Utica and now lives with his family in Perkasio, Pa., said he was surprised to see the Clauses solicit gift requests when the museum's elevator doors opened. Rowan said as a child, he also enjoyed visiting the museum.

"It has really changed over the years, but I remember crawling around in these big tunnels when I was younger," he said. "Rowan loves it here, so we're having a good time."

Museum Executive Director Marlene Brown said the facility is a place where families can have fun, no matter how bad the weather. "It's a safe place that the family can have fun and be warm," she said.

The Festival of Trees & Lights display at the museum remains open until Thursday, Dec. 30.

Children's Museum adds holiday cheer **Family Festival of Trees & Lights on display**



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Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science & Technology Executive Director Marlene Brown (right) moves on an LED display with Olivia Weiler, 4 years old, (left) during the museum's Family Festival of Trees & Lights. Olivia's mother, Jamie Weiler, (c) watches.

UTICA — **The Children's Museum** of History, National History, Science & Technology is now in the holiday spirit. The museum, at 311 Main St., has taken a miniature village and overrun it with lights and music from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The display on the museum's third floor synchs hundreds of lights in an exhibit that includes Christmas trees, the village and surrounding area as a part of its Festival of Trees & Lights. "It's been a huge amount of work to get together in the last couple months," museum Executive Director Marlene Brown said. "But everyone loves it. When you ask the children, you get that response — they love everything, not just one thing." The museum includes 4 floors of interactive exhibits that aim at being both entertaining and educational.