



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER PUTS OUTREACH ON COLORFUL WHEELS

Bay Village, Ohio --- Don't be alarmed if you're driving around Northeast Ohio and see huge, piercing owl eyes staring at you through the windshield. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's traveling wildlife and portable planetarium will be heading to schools, churches, nursing homes and events in colorful style, thanks to the purchase of a new mini-van that includes the intense, owl eyes on the back. Center supporter Patricia McRoberts donated the eye-catching vehicle wrap, which also features the Center's logo, starry skies and other wildlife, in addition to the owl.

The new "wheels" promote Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's programs, while offering reliable transportation for the Center's portable StarLab planetarium and educational animals. "We consider outreach an important part of our non-profit mission to educate and inspire Northeast Ohio about wildlife and the natural world," said Larry D. Richardson, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Executive Director. Staff and volunteers relied on their personal vehicles before the purchase of the van.

Years ago, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center founder Elberta Fleming used a VW 'bus' to take her menagerie of teaching animals to the public. In fact, her *Volkswagen* was featured in a 1960's era *Life Magazine* ad that's framed and displayed at the Center (and posted at www.lensc.org). The carmaker's ad touts the roominess for the animals and the thousands of miles that Dr. Fleming drove for "peanuts."

The passengers have changed over the years. You're more likely to find a skunk, a boa, a hawk and a chinchilla securely contained in the back of the new van, rather than the petting zoo animals pictured in the *Life* ad. The current vehicle has a sleeker look as well, but the van and animals will serve a mission that has not changed much in nearly 60 years... "to educate Northeast Ohio children and the community at large through engaging classes, hands-on discovery, specialized planetarium programming, and up-close wildlife experiences that inspire appreciation of and responsibility for our natural universe – one participant at a time."

For more information about the Center's outreach, call 440-871-2900 or log on to www.lensc.org.

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