
“Community Trees” Display Opens at McCormick Museum on Nov. 24

Seven DuPage-based nonprofits will participate in third annual holiday exhibit for charity

WHEATON, IL, November 5, 2012 — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park invites the public to view a special holiday attraction honoring Colonel McCormick’s philanthropic legacy.

Beginning Saturday, Nov. 24, the McCormick Museum will feature seven “Community Trees,” each decorated for Christmas by a different local nonprofit organization. The DuPage County charities were invited to participate because their missions involve issues or causes that were important to Robert McCormick during his career and life at Cantigny.

“The community trees give a special and meaningful touch to our holiday decorations,” said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. “This is our way of showcasing some great organizations and helping out with their 2013 funding needs.”

Museum visitors are invited to vote for their favorite tree. They can also make donations on site to one or more of the seven participating agencies.

Each participating organization will receive a \$2,500 grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation in addition to 100% of any donations made by museum visitors. The agency whose tree is voted most popular will receive an additional \$2,500. The Foundation has committed \$20,000 to the program in total.

Colonel McCormick’s passion for community service is well represented by the agencies chosen to display trees inside his former home. Participating organizations are:

- [CASA DuPage](#), Wheaton – recruits, trains and supports volunteer citizen advocates to effectively speak to the best interests of abused, neglected and dependent children in DuPage County’s juvenile court system.
- [DuPage Community Foundation](#), Wheaton – fosters philanthropy, connects donors to area needs and builds community partnerships in DuPage County.
- [DuPage Homeownership Center](#), Wheaton – provides a full range of services to promote responsible sustainable homeownership, with emphasis on serving first-time homebuyers, low- and moderate-income households and homeowners in crisis.
- [DuPage County 4-H Foundation](#), Wheaton – supports the 4-H club experience which gives boys and girls ages 8-18 an opportunity to explore topics of interest, make new friends, develop leadership and life skills, and contribute through community service.
- [Metropolitan Family Services](#), Wheaton – helps families restore balance in their lives and achieve economic stability; provides youth mentoring; counsels parents, children and seniors; and provides respite to family caregivers.

- [Senior Home Sharing](#), Wheaton – helps meet the need for affordable senior housing by providing shared housing alternatives and support services.
- [United Community Concerns Association](#), Elmhurst – fights hunger in the Elmhurst School District 205 community by serving the neediest children and families, delivering food, resources, referrals and services.

The trees decorated by these seven organizations will be positioned throughout the McCormick Museum, with two trees in the Gold Theater and five on the first floor.

An 18-foot tree will greet visitors in Freedom Hall, the mansion’s historic library. [Phillip’s Flowers & Gifts](#) was selected for the second straight year to design and decorate the grand tree.

McCormick Museum hours in November and December are 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday-Sunday, with visits by free guided tour. The Community Trees may also be viewed during Cantigny’s Celebrate the Season Holiday Festival on Saturday, Dec. 1, when the museum will host an Open House from 5 to 8 pm.

The museum will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after, and also closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31. The final day of the Community Trees exhibit is Dec. 30.

Parking at Cantigny is \$5 per vehicle or \$2 during non-peak hours. More information, including park hours, directions and details about upcoming events is online at [Cantigny.org](#).

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About the Robert R. McCormick Museum

The McCormick Museum is a historic house museum interpreting the life and legacy of Colonel Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is located at Cantigny, the Colonel’s 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate that he left as a gift to the public. Cantigny Park, part of the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is home to 30 acres of spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and a 27-hole championship golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a popular destination for special events, weddings, concerts, lectures, workshops and other recreation and learning opportunities for all ages. Full-service banquet and dining facilities are on site. More information, including hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at [Cantigny.org](#). For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit [CantignyGolf.com](#).

Media Contact:

Jeff Reiter
 Cantigny Park/Robert R. McCormick Foundations
 630.260.8218
jreiter@mccormickfoundation.org