

## McCormick Museum Announces “Community Trees” Winner

*All seven participating nonprofits receive grant money from McCormick Foundation*

**WHEATON, IL, January 7, 2014** — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park today announced that the Christmas tree decorated by [SaveAVet.org](http://SaveAVet.org) and displayed at the museum throughout the holiday season received the most votes in public balloting. By winning the popular vote, the organization earns an additional \$2,500 grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation for a total of \$5,000. The six other participating local charities each receive \$2,500.

[Save-A-Vet](http://Save-A-Vet), based in Lindenhurst, rescues military and law enforcement working dogs and other service animals when they are no longer able to serve. It also provides housing and relief for disabled veterans who help take care of the animals.

The trees were a holiday attraction to celebrate Cantigny’s connections with the community and honor Colonel McCormick’s philanthropic legacy. Seven local charities were invited to participate because their missions involve issues or causes that were meaningful to Robert McCormick.

Museum visitors were asked to vote for their favorite tree and, if they wished, make a donation to one or more of the agencies. Cash contributions by visitors totaled nearly \$1,000—about \$400 more than in 2012.

“This was our fourth year for the event and it continues to grow in popularity,” said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. “Our visitors loved the trees and responded generously. It’s an honor to support these organizations that do such important work throughout our region.”

Participating organizations, in addition to [SaveAVet.org](http://SaveAVet.org), were:

- [DuPagePads](http://DuPagePads), Wheaton – transforms the lives of homeless people by providing housing coupled with support services and employment.
- [Honor Flight Chicago](http://HonorFlightChicago) – thanks and pays tribute to veterans, especially World War II vets, by flying them to Washington, D.C. at no cost for a day of honor and remembrance.
- [Celebrate Differences](http://CelebrateDifferences), Oswego – operates the Disability Awareness Center, a place for families of children with disabilities to feel part of a larger, accepting community. Services include monthly workshops, annual parties, play groups, Autism and Down syndrome support group.
- [DuPage County Area Project](http://DuPageCountyAreaProject), Glendale Heights – develops and sponsors efforts aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency, creating strong community and keeping the community’s youth out of trouble.
- [Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center](http://GlenEllynChildrensResourceCenter) – helps children from low-income families acquire the necessary skills in academics and social interaction to move successfully through grades K-12 and into adulthood.

- [Friends of DuPage Forest Preserve District](#), Wheaton – raises funds for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, advancing the District’s preservation and restoration goals and furthering its education and recreation programs.

The McCormick Museum is closed in January and will reopen on weekends in February for free guided tours. Hours in February are 10 am to 4 pm Fridays, and noon to 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The museum returns to its regular Tuesday through Sunday tour schedule in March.

More information about Cantigny, 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](#).

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