

“Community Trees” Display Opens at McCormick Museum on Nov. 26

Seven area nonprofits to participate in fourth annual holiday event for charity

WHEATON, IL, November 13, 2013 — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park invites visitors to a special holiday attraction honoring Colonel McCormick’s philanthropic legacy.

Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 26, the McCormick Museum will feature seven “Community Trees,” each decorated for Christmas by a different local nonprofit organization. The area 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.

“We’re pleased to offer this program for the fourth year, and our visitors look forward to it,” said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. “Best of all, it helps the participating organizations raise public awareness for their programs and get a head start on their 2014 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:

- [DuPagePads](#), Wheaton – as the largest provider of services to those who are homeless in the area, DuPagePads transforms lives through their solution: housing coupled with support services and employment.
- [Honor Flight Chicago](#) – 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](#), 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](#), 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](#) – 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.
- [SaveAVet.org](#), Lindenhurst – rescues military and law enforcement working dogs and other service animals when they are no longer able to serve. Provides housing and relief for disabled veterans who help take care of the animals.

The trees creatively 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 third consecutive 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. 7, 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. The last day for the Community Trees exhibit is Dec. 29, the museum’s final day of 2013 operations.

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](#).

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