

## McCormick Museum Announces “Community Trees” Winner

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

**WHEATON, IL, Jan. 3, 2013** — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park today announced that the Christmas tree decorated by Senior Home Sharing and displayed at the museum throughout the holiday season received the most votes in public balloting. By winning the popular vote, the organization earned 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.

“Holidays represent such rich memories for our senior residents,” said Wendell Gustafson, executive director of Wheaton-based Senior Home Sharing. “Decorating a tree illustrating our mission of serving seniors provided a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude for the generous gifts we rely upon from the McCormick Foundation and other community partners.”

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 \$563.

“This was our third year for the event and it continues to grow in popularity,” said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. “The trees were beautiful and creative, and our visitors responded generously. It’s an honor to support these organizations that do such important work throughout DuPage County.”

Participating organizations were:

- [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 McCormick Museum is closed in January and will reopen on Feb. 1 for free guided tours. Hours in February are 10 am to 4 pm, Friday through Sunday. The museum returns to its usual 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](http://Cantigny.org).

###

#### **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](http://Cantigny.org). For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit [CantignyGolf.com](http://CantignyGolf.com).

#### **Media Contact:**

Jeff Reiter

Cantigny Park/Robert R. McCormick Foundations

630.260.8218

[jreiter@mccormickfoundation.org](mailto:jreiter@mccormickfoundation.org)