

## **Cantigny Supports Local Veterans in Need**

*Money raised at 5K donated to Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton*

**WHEATON, IL, Dec. 4, 2008** — Cantigny Park, part of the McCormick Foundation, last night awarded a check for \$3,763 to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) during an event at Cantigny's First Division Museum. The money represented proceeds from the Cantigny 5K Run/Walk, a popular park event held each year to commemorate Veterans Day.

"We are extremely pleased to make this contribution," said Matt LaFond, executive director of Cantigny Park. "The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans is a vital community service and deserves our support. It also shows what great things can happen when a community sees an important need and decides to take action."

Tom Mouhelis, executive director of MSHV, accepted the check, along with an additional donation from Cantigny Post 556 of the American Legion, which is based at the First Division Museum. This year, Post 556 collected and donated more than \$4,500 to MSHV, not including in-kind contributions.

"This is a fine example of veterans helping less fortunate veterans," Mouhelis said. "We deeply appreciate the support of Post 556, Cantigny and the McCormick Foundation."

Last night's donations, along with nearly \$2,000 in McCormick Foundation matching funds, raised Cantigny's total for MSHV to more than \$10,000 in 2008.

MSHV is wrapping up its second full year of operation at 119 N. West Street in Wheaton. The facility, convenient to public transportation, features sleeping, cooking, study and relaxing spaces for homeless vets. Guests must adhere to high standards while living at the shelter, where the maximum stay is six months.

The need for transitional housing services for veterans is extremely high. On any given night there are up to 20,000 homeless veterans in Illinois, according to MSHV. To learn more, visit the shelter's website at [helpaveteran.org](http://helpaveteran.org).

This year's Cantigny 5K took place Nov. 1 and attracted the event's limit of 700 participants. The next Cantigny 5K is scheduled for Nov. 7, 2009. Please visit [Cantigny.org](http://Cantigny.org) for information about other upcoming events.

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### **About the McCormick Foundation**

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its

five grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, and three world-class museums, the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with \$1.2 billion in assets. For more information, please visit [www.McCormickFoundation.org](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org).

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