



## McCormick Museum to Display Christmas Trees by Community Groups

*Seven local nonprofits will participate in first-time holiday event for charity*

**WHEATON, IL, November 8, 2010** — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny, part of the McCormick Foundation, is planning a holiday attraction to celebrate its connections with the community and honor Colonel McCormick's philanthropic legacy.

Beginning Saturday, November 27, the McCormick Museum will feature seven Christmas trees, each decorated by a different local nonprofit organization. These seven DuPage County charities were invited to participate because their missions involve issues or causes that were meaningful to Robert McCormick.

Museum visitors will be asked to vote for their favorite tree. They can also make a donation to one or more of the seven agencies. The McCormick Foundation is providing \$3,000 in matching funds.

"We always decorate for Christmas, but this year will be extra special because of the community trees," said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. "This is a fun way to showcase some great organizations that I'm sure Robert McCormick would have supported."

Colonel McCormick was indeed a generous man, and also a strong advocate for citizenship and community service. He was passionate about protecting freedom of speech and freedom of the press. He cared about proper land management. And he clearly had a soft spot for veterans, children and animals. The Christmas trees to be displayed inside the Colonel's former home will reflect these interests.

Participating organizations are:

- [Almost Home Kids](#), Naperville – enhances the lives of children who are facing serious and ongoing medical challenges.
- [Citizen Advocacy Center](#), Elmhurst – supports good citizenship by strengthening the public's capacity and motivation to participate in civic affairs.
- [The Conservation Foundation](#), Naperville – preserves open space and natural lands, protects rivers and watersheds, and promotes environmental stewardship.
- [Friends of DuPage County Animal Care & Control](#), Wheaton – provides unwanted and abandoned animals with a second chance at life.
- [Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans](#), Wheaton – assists U.S. veterans of any era to move from homelessness to self sufficiency and independence.
- [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#), St. Charles – provides nutritious food to those in need through its own efforts and those of its nonprofit partners.

- [SCARCE](#), Glen Ellyn – dedicated to educating students, teachers, businesses and the general public about conserving natural resources and energy, preventing pollution, reducing waste, recycling and composting organic materials.

The seven decorated trees will be positioned throughout the museum, with two trees in the Gold Theater and five on the first floor. A traditional 18-foot tree will greet visitors in Freedom Hall as in previous years.

McCormick Museum hours in November and December are 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday-Sunday, with visits by free guided tour. The museum will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

Parking at Cantigny is \$5 per vehicle. More information, including park hours, directions and details about upcoming events is online at [Cantigny.org](http://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, 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 is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, full-service clubhouse, Cantigny Golf Academy and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.

#### **Media Contact:**

Jeff Reiter

Cantigny/McCormick Foundation

630 260 8218

[JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org](mailto:JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org)