

McCormick Museum Announces Christmas Tree Winner

All seven participating nonprofits receive grants from McCormick Foundation

WHEATON, IL, January 5, 2011 — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny, part of the McCormick Foundation, today announced that the Christmas tree decorated by the Northern Illinois Food Bank and displayed at the museum throughout December received the most votes in public balloting. By winning the popular vote, the food bank earned an additional \$2,500 grant from the McCormick Foundation for a total of \$5,000. The six other participating local charities will each receive \$2,500.

The trees were a holiday attraction to celebrate Cantigny's connections with the community and honor Colonel McCormick's philanthropic legacy. Seven 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 chose to, make a donation to one or more of the agencies.

"This proved to be a popular first-time event," said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. "The trees were beautiful and creative, and our visitors responded generously. It was our pleasure to recognize and support these organizations that do such important work throughout DuPage County."

Participating organizations were:

- [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 McCormick Museum is closed in January and will reopen in February 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.

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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.

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