

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

Seven DuPage-based nonprofits will participate in holiday exhibit for charity

WHEATON, IL, November 8, 2011 — The Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park invites the public to view a special holiday attraction honoring Colonel McCormick’s philanthropic legacy.

Beginning Saturday, November 26, the McCormick Museum will feature seven Christmas trees, each decorated by a different local nonprofit organization. The DuPage County 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.

“The community trees give a special and meaningful touch to our holiday decorations,” said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. “This is a festive way to showcase some great organizations and also help out with their 2012 funding needs.”

Museum visitors will be invited to vote for their favorite tree. They can also make donations on site to one or more of the seven participating agencies. The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is providing up to \$20,000 in matching funds and grants. Last year, in addition to donations by museum visitors, each participating organization received a \$2,500 grant from the Foundation. An additional \$2,500 was awarded to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for decorating the winning tree.

Colonel McCormick’s passion for community service is well represented by the agencies chosen to display trees inside his former home. Participating organizations are:

- [DuPage Children’s Museum](#), Naperville – offering hands-on exhibits and programs for children up to 10 years old, stimulating their curiosity, creativity and problem solving.
- [DuPage Community Foundation](#), Wheaton – supports the people of DuPage County by making grants to nonprofit organizations working in the areas of arts and culture, education, environment, health and human services.
- [DuPage Senior Citizens Council](#), Lombard – eases the challenges of daily life for seniors by assisting them in their homes and communities.
- [Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana](#) – develops courage, confidence and character in young girls, who make the world a better place.
- [Giving DuPage](#), Wheaton – promotes giving and volunteering in DuPage County by helping people connect with nonprofit agencies that need their time and talents.
- [Literacy DuPage](#), Naperville – provides accessible and customized tutoring in reading, writing, speaking and understanding English to help adults achieve independence.

- [People's Resource Center](#), Wheaton – brings neighbors together to respond to hunger and poverty in DuPage County, providing food and other basic needs.

The trees decorated by these organizations will be positioned throughout the McCormick 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, the mansion's historic library. Phillip's Flowers & Gifts was selected to design and decorate this year's grandest tree, which will have a Robert R. McCormick theme.

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, and also closed Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-31. The final day of the Community Trees exhibit will be Dec. 29.

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, 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 Robert R. McCormick Foundations, 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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