

**Media Contact:**

Jeff Reiter

Cantigny Park

630.260.8218

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

**“COMMUNITY HOLIDAY TREES” DISPLAY OPENS  
AT MCCORMICK HOUSE NOVEMBER 22**

*Seven area nonprofits to participate in 10<sup>th</sup> annual holiday event for charity*

**Wheaton, Ill., November 20, 2019** — The [Robert R. McCormick House at Cantigny Park](#) invites visitors to a special holiday attraction honoring Colonel McCormick’s philanthropic legacy.

Beginning Friday, November 22, and through December 29, the McCormick House will feature seven “Community Holiday Trees,” each decorated for Christmas by a different local nonprofit organization. The area 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.

Each participating organization receives a \$2,500 grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. They also collect 100% of optional donations made by museum visitors, who are encouraged to vote for their favorite tree. The agency whose tree gathers the most votes receives an additional \$2,500. The Foundation commits \$20,000 annually to the program.

The chosen non-profit agencies recall Colonel McCormick’s passion for community service. Tree decorators in 2019 are:

[Diveheart](#), founded in 2001 and based in Downers Grove, works to build confidence, independence and self-esteem in children, adults and veterans with disabilities through scuba diving, scuba therapy and related activities. Using certified adaptive dive buddies, Diveheart instills a can-do spirit, inspiring participants to take on challenges that before might have seemed impossible.

[Glen Ellyn Infant Welfare Society](#), established in 1926, is a group of women dedicated to the well-being of Glen Ellyn’s children. Through fundraising efforts and community service, this all-volunteer organization works with other Glen Ellyn and DuPage County non-profits to support a wide variety of youth and family programs.

[Naperville Area Humane Society](#), founded in 1979, promotes the humane treatment of companion animals and creates lasting human-animal bonds. More than a pet adoption center, this no-kill shelter organizes many innovative onsite and offsite educational programs, using dogs as therapy animals to teach vital life skills to their human caretakers.

[Off the Street Club](#), founded in 1900 and serving about 3,000 kids, is Chicago's oldest boys and girls club. The organization's Camp Mathieu in Wheaton provides fun summer camp activities that inspire inner city youth to make positive changes for themselves, their families and neighborhoods.

[Student Excellence Foundation](#), established in 1992, is an all-volunteer organization providing financial support for classrooms across Wheaton-Warrenville District 200. Through Foundation grants, teachers receive funding for cutting-edge instruction methods and materials, enriching the educational experience for students.

[Tuskegee NEXT](#), based in Wheaton, honors the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen by offering aviation education and career path opportunities for at-risk youth. A three-tiered approach includes flight training, life skills and educational assistance. Student cadets ages 18-20 attend a summer program to earn a pilot's license.

[WINGS Program, Inc.](#), aims to break the cycle of domestic violence, assisting adults and children in Chicagoland since 1985. Based in Schaumburg, WINGS provides transitional housing, mental health counseling, legal assistance and job training, helping abuse victims toward safety, security and independence.

*The Community Holiday Trees exhibit ends on Sunday, December 29, Cantigny Park's final day of 2019 operations.*

McCormick House hours in November and December are 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday-Sunday, with visits by free guided tour. The museum is closed on Mondays and during the holiday season will close November 28-29 and December 24-25.

Parking at Cantigny is \$5 per vehicle (free for members). More information, including park hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at [Cantigny.org](#).

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### **About the Robert R. McCormick House**

McCormick House is the former home of Col. Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. Opened in 1958, the historic home museum is located at Cantigny Park, the 500-acre estate that McCormick left as a gift to the public. The museum engages the community in McCormick's legacy as an active citizen, soldier and media industry innovator.

### **About Cantigny Park**

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955). It is home to the McCormick House, First Division Museum, display gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions and upcoming events is online at [Cantigny.org](#). 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. For more information, visit [CantignyGolf.com](#).