

39TH ANNUAL  
**FESTIVAL  
OF TREES**

A BENEFIT FOR THE  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL OF  
MICHIGAN  
FOUNDATION



Giving kids  
more nights  
to dream

NOVEMBER 19-26, 2023

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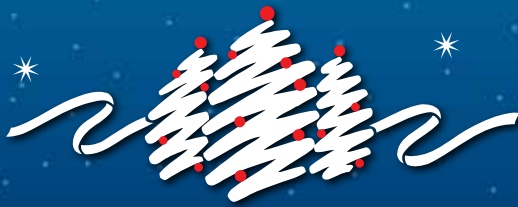


# FESTIVAL OF TREES

on your 39<sup>th</sup> year of contributing  
to Children's Hospital of Michigan  
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# FESTIVAL OF TREES

A Benefit for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

## Preview Gala

Saturday, November 18, 2023

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center  
15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Michigan

### Evening Events

**6:30 PM**

Doors Open for VIPs

*(Includes Access to the Sky Lounge/Open Bar)*

Silent Auction Begins

Welcome from Tati Amare

*(WDIV Live in the D Host)*

**7:30 PM**

Patrons Arrival

*(Cash Bar)*

**9:00 PM**

Silent Auction Closes

**10:00 PM**

Preview Gala Ends

For more Festival of Trees information, visit [www.fot.org](http://www.fot.org).

Proceeds benefit the Evergreen Endowment Fund for the  
Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation.

# Nationally Ranked Pediatric Hospital

Again and Again  
Again and Again  
Again and Again  
Again and Again

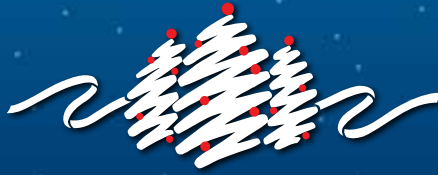


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# FESTIVAL OF TREES

A Benefit for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

## Preview Gala

EVENING EMCEE

*Tati  
Amare*



Tati Amare is an Emmy nominated producer and award-winning TV host who currently anchors WDIV-Local 4's award winning lifestyle show, *Live in the D*, which highlights the best in culture, lifestyle, local business and entertainment the Motor City has to offer. Tati relishes the opportunity to introduce viewers to the people influencing and creating the magic behind Detroit's renaissance. Experiencing the unique comeback of the city leaves her constantly inspired by the people of Detroit's courage, resilience and patience.

Throughout her diverse and rich career, she's hosted and produced for a wide range of news, lifestyle, food and travel programs. With strong experience both in front of and behind the camera, Tati brings a wealth of experience and passion to any project she tackles. This creative individual has been applauded for taking simple ideas and turning them into strong stories.

When Tati's not on a quest for her next interview, you'll find her planning her next dinner party for loved ones, volunteering, binge watching documentaries, seeking out local coffee spots and planning her next international adventure.



**ME  
RRY  
CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL THE  
FAMILIES & FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION  
AND THE FESTIVAL OF TREES**



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\* Giving kids more nights to dream \*



# Welcome to the Festival of Trees

November 2023

Dear Friends of Festival of Trees,

Happy Holidays! For nearly four decades, the Metro Detroit community has kicked off the Holiday season at Festival of Trees, and this year is no different. We are so happy to call the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center our home for another great year. A special thank you to the Honorable Mayor Hammoud, his staff and all of the hardworking professionals that work at this venue for welcoming us back to the City of Dearborn. We are grateful for this wonderful opportunity to continue our efforts to raise funding for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation in such a supportive community.



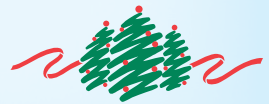
I am thrilled to welcome you and your family to our 39th Festival of Trees! A special thank you goes out to our incredibly hard-working Board of Directors and our Event Committee, as well as our generous sponsors, amazing designers and the hundreds of dedicated volunteers it takes to make this spectacular event possible.

Festival of Trees is the largest annual special event fundraiser for Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. To date, your support has enabled us to fund over \$25 million in medical equipment, training and research grants through the Evergreen Endowment. All of this is possible because of people like you who want to make a difference in the lives of children. As you look at all the beauty and creative talent on display at this year's Festival, please take note of the many posted opportunities for contributing to our cause. Donations can be made right from your smart phone using Square, Venmo or PayPal. All donations are welcome, large or small, and will truly make a difference!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Event Committee and all of our volunteers and supporters, welcome to the 2023 Festival of Trees! We thank you for joining us in giving kids more days to play, nights to dream and time to just be kids.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays,

Scott Killingbeck  
President of Festival of Trees



Celebrating 39 Years of  
Continuous Generosity  
and Dedication



Children's  
Hospital of  
Michigan  
Foundation

A Children's Foundation Initiative

# Thank You Festival of Trees



A DEDICATED PARTNER TO PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

For nearly 40 years, **Festival of Trees** has provided pivotal support dedicated to ground breaking pediatric research at Children's Hospital of Michigan. This includes helping to support the Clinical Research Institute which provides pediatric medical researchers the resources to gain funding and conduct breakthrough research.



\$10  
MILLION

Festival of Trees has donated  
more than \$10 Million to  
support pediatric research.



Children's Foundation  
YourChildrensFoundation.org



\* Giving kids more nights to dream \*



# Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

November 2023

Dear Community,

For nearly four decades, Festival of Trees has made the holidays brighter for everyone. Most importantly, the event has raised more than \$10 million to create a healthier future for kids.

Childhood diseases require careful investigation and study, but unfortunately pediatric research is underfunded – making up less than 11% of the National Institute of Health annual budget. As a result, physician scientists often have difficulty finding the resources and support to conduct research.

Because of efforts like Festival of Trees, we can give researchers at Children's Hospital of Michigan the funding necessary to discover new medical treatments and techniques to improve care, including:

- developing treatments to improve diagnosis and care of pediatric patients with COVID-19
- increasing access to clinical trials for kids in Detroit with pediatric cancer
- creating an extubation readiness estimator for pre-term babies
- improving cognitive outcomes for speech and language in children with epilepsy

Festival of Trees not only directly impacts kids suffering from conditions today but will prevent disease and improve health outcomes well into the future. We are thankful to be the beneficiary of this event's important fundraising effort. Through philanthropy, we are creating meaningful, long-term change.

In partnership,

Andrew Stein  
President & CEO  
The Children's Foundation





*Happy Holidays!*

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Celebrating 39 Years of Continuous  
Generosity and Dedication



# City of Dearborn Mayor

November 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Dearborn, I am delighted to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the 2023 Festival of Trees charitable event in Dearborn. We are thrilled to once again open our doors to this wonderful event, which has become a cherished tradition in our community.



The Festival of Trees holds a special place in the hearts of Dearborn residents and visitors alike. It brings together people from all walks of life for a common purpose to celebrate the holiday spirit, showcase creativity through beautifully decorated trees, and, most importantly to support a vital charitable cause.

I applaud the many Dearborn residents, businesses and organizations that continue to support the Festival of Trees, which is celebrating its 39th year as a premier fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation.

We are truly honored to welcome thousands of visitors from across Metro Detroit to Dearborn, and we look forward to the positive impact this event will have on our community, and the causes it supports. The spirit of giving and generosity that the Festival of Trees embodies is a reflection of our shared values, and we are excited to join hands in making this year's event a tremendous success.

The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, our gracious host for this event, provides the perfect setting for the Festival of Trees. Its warm and welcoming atmosphere, coupled with our city's rich history and vibrant culture, creates an ideal backdrop for this gathering.

Once again, welcome to Dearborn, and thank you for choosing our city as the host for this incredible charitable event. We eagerly await the festivities, the joy, and the sense of community that the Festival of Trees brings to our doorstep. Let us together make this year's Festival of Trees an unforgettable experience for all.

Abdullah H. Hammoud  
Mayor

IN LOVING  
*memory of*



**JENNIFER YOUNGQUEST**

Vice President of Marketing  
at English Gardens

For over 10 years, Jennifer was an integral part of helping coordinate the needs of Festival of Trees. She wasn't just a colleague, but also a friend.

**She will be greatly missed.**



# 2023 Board of Directors

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*President, Planning, Friendship Ornaments*

**Anina Bachrach**

*Vice President, Program Ads*

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*Vice President, Webmaster*

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*Board Member, Tree Delivery*

**Kimberly Schneck**

*Board Member, Children's Activities*

**Andrew Stein**

*President & CEO, Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation*



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<b>2014</b> John Darin	<b>1997</b> Alex & Valerie Trotman
<b>2013</b> Dick Snyder	<b>1996</b> William & Dianne Halling
<b>2012</b> Diana Lewis	<b>1995</b> Mayor Dennis Archer & Judge Trudy DunCombe Archer
<b>2011</b> Jack & Susie Baker	<b>1994</b> Tom & Diane Schoenith
<b>2010</b> Mayor John (Jack) & Christine O'Reilly, Jr.	<b>1993</b> Cynthia & Edsel Ford
<b>2008</b> Mayor Gary J. Burtka & City Administrator Eric C. Waidelich	<b>1992</b> Don H. Barden & Bella Marshall Barden
<b>2007</b> Danialle & Peter Karmanos Jr.	<b>1991</b> Walter Tomyn
<b>2005</b> Jeff & Jennifer Palmer	<b>1990</b> Kenneth & Jane Meade
<b>2004</b> Mayor Michael & Kari Guido	<b>1989</b> Eugene & Marcia Applebaum
<b>2003</b> Nick & Ros Scheele	<b>1988</b> Governor James Blanchard & Mayor Coleman Young
<b>2002</b> Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick & First Lady Carlita Kilpatrick	<b>1987</b> Governor James Blanchard & Mayor Coleman Young
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<b>1985</b> Kathy Neumann

We are pleased and proud to help  
**Festival of Trees**  
support a worthy cause like  
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# 2023 Research Projects at Children's Hospital of Michigan

Funding from the Festival of Trees has been a crucial source of support for innovative pediatric research projects at the Children's Hospital of Michigan that have advanced the science and practice of pediatric health care. The Evergreen Endowment provides seed funding that supports preliminary research projects that allow physician-scientists to develop new models of a disease or to evaluate the efficacy of a new intervention or treatment. This kind of support is vitally important to help advance research projects to the point where they can attract external funding, because researchers cannot successfully compete for federal grants without preliminary data. Several nationally known research programs at Children's were initiated with research funds from the Festival of Trees.



A Children's Foundation Initiative



## ***Long-Term Respiratory Outcomes in Children with COVID-19 Associated Pulmonary Disease***

During the initial waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM) saw large numbers of pediatric patients with COVID-19. CHM was a leader in developing new treatments aimed at improving the diagnosis and care of these children, and CHM's physician investigators documented their discoveries in three publications that were highly cited by other clinicians. Initial funding from the Festival of Trees Evergreen Endowment in 2021 provided the support needed to rapidly begin this work as CHM admitted increasing numbers of children with COVID-19 who required critical care. While several studies are examining post-COVID-19 symptoms in adults, there have not been any thorough evaluations done in children who had respiratory impairment requiring hospitalization and treatment with oxygen, steroids, and anti-viral medications. Thus, long-term changes in pulmonary function in children and adolescents who were hospitalized with severe respiratory impairment following COVID-19 lung infection are not known. The results of this study will help determine the need for routine comprehensive respiratory evaluation of children with significant COVID pneumonia to understand and address persistent symptoms among these young patients.

## ***Increasing Essential Access to Pediatric Cancer Clinical Trials in Detroit***

For children with cancer, the newest therapies and best outcomes are often only available by being enrolled in a clinical trial. Access to these newly discovered chemotherapy and immunotherapy treatments for pediatric cancer can give children their best chance at a cure. Unfortunately, access to pediatric cancer clinical trials is more difficult for the diverse and economically at-risk populations served by Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM). It takes extra effort to overcome language, cultural, economic, and transportation barriers to enroll these children in clinical trials, and to help them maintain their enrollment eligibility. The role of a full time Lead Clinical Research Associate (CRA) in the CHM Pediatric Oncology



Division is essential to be able to offer state-of-the-art clinical trials to pediatric cancer patients. A CRA is required to be able to enroll children in a cancer clinical trial to ensure compliance with study procedures and to be responsible for data management. The CRA position is not reimbursed by health insurance. The CHM Pediatric Oncology division is an active member of the Children's Oncology Group (COG). Through COG, CHM Oncologists work to enroll every eligible pediatric, adolescent, and young adult patient onto protocol-based clinical trials whenever a trial is available. Children with cancer have much better treatment outcomes when treated in a pediatric hospital that is a member of the COG research group than similar patients treated in non-pediatric institutions. For 2023, CHM Oncologists have specifically identified and are planning to offer ten new therapeutic protocols across a variety of cancer diagnoses within COG. The CRA will improve cancer outcomes for young patients by ensuring that they are successfully enrolled in these new cancer clinical trials.

## **Children's Clinical Research Institute**

Support for medical research is a vitally important part of providing the best medical care to children. The discovery of new medical treatments and techniques that can help physicians to improve care for childhood diseases requires careful investigation and study. Physicians who conduct research are on the cutting-edge of medicine. Unfortunately, pediatric research is woefully underfunded by both federal and commercial entities. Many physicians who choose to practice at Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM) do so because they want the opportunity to conduct research to improve outcomes for sick children. However, young physician scientists routinely have difficulty finding the resources and support to conduct research. The Children's Clinical Research Institute (CRI) plays an important role in scientific progress by providing essential infrastructure, training, and research support services that help support the next generation of physician scientists. The CRI helps physicians develop and undertake pediatric research projects that increase understanding of the mechanisms that lead to childhood diseases and find new cures. The CRI advances child health through research innovation, education, and mentorship, thereby improving outcomes and the quality of life for children in our community.



\* Giving kids more nights to dream \*



# 2023 Festival of Trees

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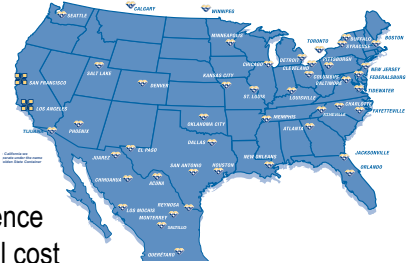
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## 2023 Festival of Trees

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## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Bev Brown

Mary Bugeia

Maria Burt

Debra Emmons

Judy Hart

Joyce Hughes

Gail Raupp

Megan Schira

Pat Schwier

Sandra Sherry





## A Special Thank You To...

Martin Zbosnik and  
the Staff of the  
Ford Community  
& Performing  
Arts Center  
Dean Darin,  
Olivia Zarndt, Sean  
Matthews and the  
English Garden's Staff

The City of Dearborn  
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Services – The Tanari  
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The Honorable Mayor  
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and Staff

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Marty Shoushanian  
and Amy Soczewa

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Na Wahine O Ke  
Anuenu Polynesian  
Dance Group  
Rivers End Brass



### A NOTE FROM THERESA DIEFENBACH

We are thrilled to welcome you to our 39th Festival of Trees!

An undertaking of this size takes a tremendous amount of work and support to make this happen. Our Executive Committee and Board of Directors work all year long planning the event. Our incredibly talented designers plan early on their creations that will become the magical wonderland our guests have come to expect.

Our generous sponsors continue our goal of raising funds for pediatric research, and are critical to our mission.

And last but not least, all the wonderful volunteers, who help set up, run the event, and assist with tear down and tree delivery, we absolutely could not do this without you.

It is because of all of you, we continue to *give kids more days to play, nights to dream, and time to just be kids.* Thank you for making a difference in the health of children.



## Special Santa Tree Sponsors

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## 2023 Tree Designers

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Wendy Stolzenfeld &  
Shelley Stevens –  
English Gardens

Carolyn Vaughan

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# 2023 Festival Designers

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Laura Joyce

Livonia Garden Club

Linda D. Macrae

Cheryl McNamara

Deborah Moore

Amy Podeszwick

Pat Poulman

Senior Club –  
Polish American  
Congress of Michigan

Sandra Sherry –  
A Clean Look Inc.

Katherine Speck

Mary Jean Speck

Terri Steinhauer

Colleen Sullivan

Taylor Conservatory

Taylor Garden Club –  
Jill Brandana,

Bev Brown, Karen  
Regentik, Nancy  
Smith, Brenda

Szubeczak, Mary  
Taylor, Barb Thompson

Bridget Terry –  
Dreamlife Designs

The Ark Association

The Holly Jolly Helpers

Emma & Amy Toland

Trenton Garden Club  
– Heather Kaper &  
Andrea Presnell

Troy Garden Club

Village Herb

Associates –

Gail Anderson, Pat  
Fiolek, Denise Hester,  
Mary Link, Laura Lee,  
Susan Tereshinski,  
Linda Veresh

Pam Westergaard  
& Neil Almalbis

Georgianna  
Wirth-King

Sharon Wourman



## 2023 Festival Designers

### WREATHS & CENTERPIECES

Allen Park Late Bloomers  
Garden Club – Maria Burt,  
Therese Faletti, Pat Mann

Donna Cyrbok

Donna Ferrante

Garden Club of Dearborn –  
Terry Bungee, Cynthia Casillas,  
Carol Chrzastek, Dr. Linda Johnson,  
Ms. Jean Burns, Wanda Unis-Flaim,  
Jo West, Rose Wiggle

Melia Howard

Geralynn Hurt

Kolleen Lowinski

Beverly J. Palise

Jerome Raska & Robin Yelverton

Georganne Salvia

Debra Smith – DAS Designs

Stephanie Smith

The Ark Association

Emma & Amy Toland

Trenton Garden Club –  
Heather Kaper & Andrea Presnell

Melissa Warren

Sharon Warren

Pat West

Kim Wilson

### GINGERBREADS

Alivia Banks & Owen Peters

Boone Productions –  
The Nap Time Show

Beverly Brown

Maria Burt

Michael Burt

Dawn & Gavin DePlanche

Denice Dickerson

Girls Bunco

Catherine Grima –  
Waltonwood Senior Living

Hirata Corporation

Mary Howard

Tomoko Maczei

Denise McDonald

Ms. McLean's 7th Grade ELA  
Students – West Middle School,  
Taylor

Marilyn Nance

Nicolle Noel – Students at  
Success Virtual Learning Centers

Thom Ouellette

Kathy Robinson

Schira/Ansbro Family

Stephanie Smith

Catrina Staats – Homestead  
Kitchen Artisan Cakery

Brandy Tyson –  
Champion Home Builders

Sharon Warren

### FOOD DONATIONS FOR GINGERBREAD DESIGNS:

The Bulk Store in Taylor | The Candy Box at Southland Mall



## Auction & Raffle Donors

Amistee Air Duct  
Cleaning & Insulation –  
Novi

Andiamo – Livonia

Auto Zone – Wixom

Bark Box

Better Health – Novi

Border Cantina – Novi

Broadway Detroit  
(Fisher Theatre)

Cheesecake Factory –  
Novi

Churchills Bristo/  
Cigar Bar

COSTCO

Detroit Princess  
Riverboat

Len & Theresa  
Diefenbach

Discount Tire

English Gardens

Face Skincare –  
Medical Wellness

Flemings Prime  
Steakhouse

Ford Garage

Friends of

Festival of Trees

Gordon Food Service

Grand Hotel

Great Lakes Ace –  
Dearborn

Great Lakes Hobby

Hagopian

Robin Hayes

Hollywood Casino  
at Greektown

Home Depot – Novi

Honey Baked Ham

Honig Vineyard  
& Winery

Hudson Café

iFly Detroit

J. Alexander

Jane Iacobelli

Laura Joyce

Dr. Duane Kreil, OM  
Day Spa

Lay-Z Boy Incorporated

Jill Lezotte-Kates

Lowes – New Hudson

Macy's

Mad Viking Beard  
Company

Materra Cunat Family  
Vineyards

Tim & Cheryl  
McNamara

Mexican Fiesta

Michigan (U of M)  
Athletics

Nankin Hobby Shop

Nino Salvaggio

Robert O. Kramer  
Family

Phil Osker

Patriot Pig/Scholl  
Slaughter House

Pet Supplies Plus

Marty Polakowski

Premier Pet Supply

Red Lobster – Novi  
Red Olive

Roco Real Estate

Rugiero Promise  
Foundation

Rusty Bucket

Sam's Club

Shirley Schneck

Simply Beautiful

A Skin Care Studio –  
Barbie Facial  
& Revision

Brightening Trial

Somerset Golf Club

Star Line

Mackinac Island Ferry

Steve's Deli

Super Fine Wine  
& Liquor

Tappers Jewelry

Target – Novi

Texas Road House –  
Novi

Vivid Salon – Plymouth

Walmart – Novi

Weingartz



## Sweets & Treats Donors

All Things Cake by  
Luca Pastry  
Livonia

A Serendipity Cakery  
& Ice Cream Shop  
Riverview

Bartz Bakery  
Dearborn

Busch's Bakery  
Livonia

Cakes by Stephanie  
Monroe

Cookies by Design  
West Bloomfield

Di Maggio  
Italian Bakery  
Redford

Dunia Sweets  
Livonia

Gordon Foods  
Novi

Grand Traverse  
Pie Company  
Plymouth

Homestead Kitchen  
Westland

Hungarian  
Strudel Shop  
Allen Park

Italia Bakery  
Dearborn

Jill's Kitchen  
Wayne

Jo Jo's Treats  
& Sweets  
Plymouth

Le Cakery Bake Shop  
Westland

Michigan  
Cookie Project  
Melvindale

Monroe Bakery  
Dearborn

New Yasmeen Bakery  
Dearborn

Panera Bread  
Livonia

Ridley's Bakery Cafe  
Troy

Roberto's Bakery  
Taylor

Rumi's Passion  
Plymouth

Sam's Club  
Canton

Shatila Bakery  
Dearborn

Sorella's Cake Studio  
Livonia

Sugar Island Bakery  
Flat Rock

Sweets By Simona  
Belleville



### **SWEETS & TREATS SERVED BY:**

Michigan Cookie Project

A Serendipity Cakery & Ice Cream Shop

Homestead Kitchen – VIP

Jo Jo's Treats & Sweets

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Patti Abbott

Heidi Fugate

Carol Pitts



**Kiwaniis**  
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For a Successful  
39<sup>th</sup> Festival of Trees**

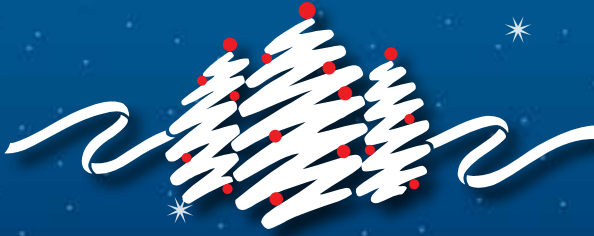


Shop with Avon in person at our Festival Gift Shop! Also, go to the Festival Avon Online Gift Shop from now through December 24<sup>th</sup> and Festival will get a portion of the proceeds from all sales made at:

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# FESTIVAL OF TREES

A Benefit for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Michigan

**Sunday, NOV 19**



11:00 am to 1:00 pm



*Private Event*



2:00 pm to 7:00 pm



*Opening Day*



**Monday, NOV 20**



10:00 am to 7:00 pm



**Tuesday, NOV 21**



10:00 am to 7:00 pm



*Free Admission to*



*All Military*



**Wednesday, NOV 22**



10:00 am to 2:00 pm



**Thursday, NOV 23**



Thanksgiving Day



*Closed*



**Friday, NOV 24**



10:00 am to 7:00 pm



**Saturday, NOV 25**



10:00 am to 7:00 pm



**Sunday, NOV 26**



10:00 am to 4:00 pm



*Last Day!*



*Raffle drawing at 3:30 pm*

**Giving kids more nights to dream**



# 2023 Friendship Ornament



Become a Friend of Festival of Trees to benefit the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation!

Each ornament is hand-blown by Marc Vandenberg.

All "Friends of Festival" will be listed next to the Friendship Tree

Ornaments are \$50 each and stands are available for \$15 each, plus tax

Consider honoring a special person with this unique gift

Ship the ornament(s), for \$10/ea., to you or the recipient and receive it in early December

The ornament can be ordered online at [www.fot.org](http://www.fot.org), by mail or at the event.

Make your check payable to *Festival of Trees* and send to:  
**Festival of Trees, 18381 Westchester, Livonia, MI 48152**

For additional information, please call Festival of Trees at **734.748.3822**.

*(Fair market value of the ornament is \$22 and the stand is \$7. Balance may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.)*

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Due to publication constraints, we apologize to those excluded from the final program printing.

Follow us on your favorite social media channels at [fotmichigan.com](http://fotmichigan.com).

The Nutcracker is presented by the renowned Ballet Americana, featuring international stars of American ballet, accompanied by the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra.

# THE NUTCRACKER

**Ford Community & Performing Arts Center**  
**Saturday, December 2, at 1 and 7 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 3, at 2 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$20-\$35**

For tickets, visit [www.dearborntheater.com](http://www.dearborntheater.com) or call the box office—open  
Thursday & Friday from 11 a.m. - 4p.m.—at (313) 943-2354



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