

FESTIVAL OF TREES

A BENEFIT FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF
MICHIGAN FOUNDATION



1985-2024

NOVEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 1, 2024







Saturday, November 23, 2024

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, Michigan



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.

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

Over 130 years committed to children.



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ChildrensDMC.org



FESTIVAL OF TREES

A Benefit for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation



Tati Amare is a two-time Emmy nominated producer and four-time Telly Award winning TV host currently anchoring an award winning lifestyle show, Live in the D, which airs on WDIV-Local 4 (Detroit's NBC affiliate).

Live in the D 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 come-back of the city leaves her constantly inspired by the courage, resilience and patience of the people of Detroit.

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 dinner parties for loved ones, volunteering, binge watching documentaries or planning her next international adventure.



ME RRY CHRISTMAS TOALLTHE

FAMILIES&FRIENDS

OFCHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

OFMICHIGANFOUNDATION

AND THEFESTIVALOFTREES



childrenseyecaremich.com

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Welcome to the Festival of Trees

November 2024

Dear Friends of Festival of Trees,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our dedicated Executive Committee, our amazing designers, and the hundreds of volunteers who make this event happen, I am proud to welcome you to our 40th annual Festival of Trees.

For the past 40 years, Festival of Trees has raised monies for the Evergreen Endowment Fund to support funding of critical pediatric research initiatives for the Children's Hospital of Michigan. Funding over \$11 million in grants, we have been able to impact the health and wellbeing of children well into the future.

I would like to thank a great group of people that have been a part of Festival of Trees with me and I am honored and humble to be in the presence of such wonderful people. Thank you to all our past board members, event chairs and the founders of Festival of Trees – you have made this event what it is. I especially would like to thank Theresa for everything she does for the Board of Directors, our Executive Committee, and keeping me focused and on track. (That is not an easy task.)

We would also like to thank the great city of Dearborn for hosting our event for the past 14 years. Thank you to Mayor Abdullah Hammound and his team. It has been a great pleasure working with Martin and the team at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center.

We are honored to welcome the thousands of guests this week who will visit Festival of Trees, kicking off the holiday season and supporting our efforts to help the kids.

As you walk around the event, we have created "selfie areas" for your own pictures. You will find boards with QR codes that you can scan and submit pictures directly. We hope that you enjoy the 40th Festival of Trees.

May you take with you a heart full of peace and hope for the holiday season, knowing that your compassion and generosity will make a difference in the lives of the innocent and most in need.

Hoping the kids have more days to play, more nights to dream and more time to just be kids...

May I be the first to wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and the best for 2025.

Scott Killingbeck

President of Festival of Trees



For 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.







\$11.5 MILLION



Festival of Trees has donated more than \$11.5 Million to support pediatric research.

Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

November 2024

Dear Community,

For four decades, Festival of Trees has made the holidays brighter for everyone. Most importantly, though, the event has awarded \$11.5 million to support more than 100 research studies that impact every area of Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Childhood conditions require careful investigation but unfortunately, pediatric research is underfunded – making up less than 11% if the National Institute of Health's 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 prevent, diagnose, and 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 impacts the health of kids today and well into the future. We are thankful to be the beneficiary of this event's important fundraising effort. Together, we are creating meaningful, long-lasting change for children in Michigan.

In partnership,



President & CEO
Children's Foundation





Enjoy a Holiday Getaway at The Henry, Autograph Collection and start your gift wrapping.

<u>Holiday Hideout Package</u>

- 3 rolls of Wrapping paper & Supplies
- 2 drinks in TRIA Restaurant
- 1pm Late check-out

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City of Dearborn Mayor

November 2024

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Dearborn, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the 2024 Festival of Trees charitable event. Dearborn is thrilled to once again open its doors to this 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, to enjoy artistically decorated Christmas trees and to support a vital charitable cause.

I applaud the many Dearborn residents, businesses and organizations that continue to support the Festival of Trees that is celebrating its 40th year as a premier fundraiser for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation.

We are honored to welcome thousands of visitors to Dearborn, and we look forward to the positive impact this event will have on our community. The spirit of giving that the Festival of Trees embodies is a reflection of our shared values. We are excited to join hands in making this event a tremendous success.

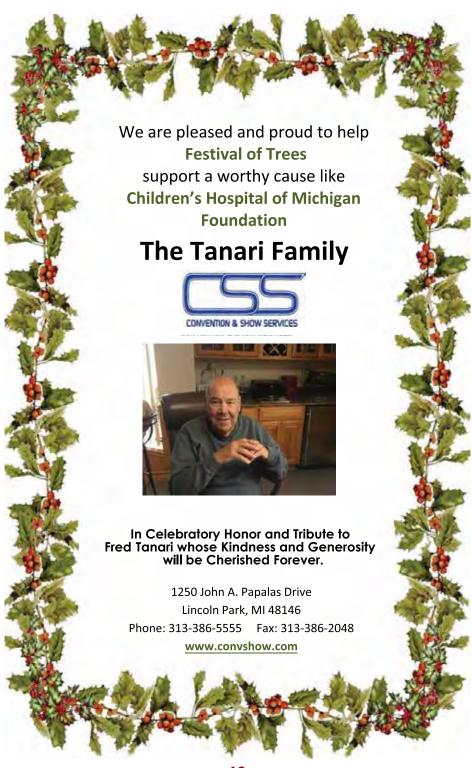
The Ford Community & Performing Arts Center is the gracious host for this event. It provides the perfect setting for the Festival of Trees and a welcoming atmosphere, coupled with Dearborn's rich history and vibrant culture. It also creates an ideal backdrop for this gathering.

Once again, welcome! Thank you for choosing Dearborn as the host for this charitable event. We eagerly await the festivities, the joy, and the sense of community that this event brings to our doorstep. Together, let us make this year's Festival of Trees a memorable experience for all.



Abdullah H. Hammoud *Mayor*





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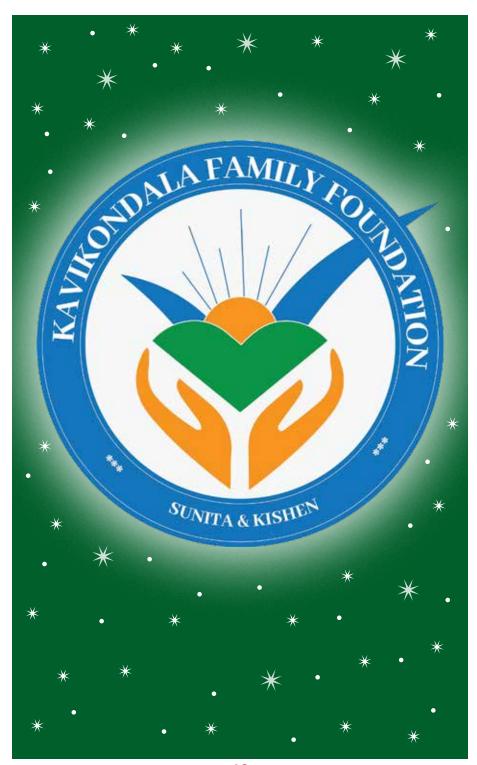
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1985	Kathy Neumann
1986	Mary Beth Winkworth
1987	Mary Beth Winkworth Estelle Blestas Rosanne Gjostein Cinda Roudebush Susan Currier Dona Waszczuk Mith much gratitude, we honor our Dast Chairs.
1988	Rosanne Gjostein
1989	Cinda Roudebush
1990	Susan Currier we notice
1991	Dona Waszczuk Dona Waszczuk Dast Chairo:
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1993	Pam Bird
1994	Susan Iverson & Maureen Osborne
1995	Claudia Kogut Miles
1996	Kay Albertie & Rita L. Margherio
1997	Joyce Ballnik & Susan Kuhlmann
1998	Larry Kralowski, Judy Kramer & Judy Shagena
2003	Maureen Osborne
2004	Maureen Osborne
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Best Wishes
For a Successful
40th Festival of Trees



2024 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.

> Children's MA Hospital of Michigan Foundation

A Children's Foundation Initiative



Barriers to Outpatient Follow-up After a Pediatric Emergency Department Visit in Inner City Children

Mental and behavioral health (MBH) conditions affect approximately 1 in 5 children under 18 years of age in the United States annually. Given the critical shortage of pediatric MBH specialists and prolonged wait times for outpatient care, pediatric emergency departments (ED) often serve as a gateway and safety net for children with MBH conditions, especially among underserved populations. Each year, approximately 500,000 children in the U.S. are evaluated in EDs for MBH conditions. Children and adolescents from racial and ethnic minority groups experience inequities in access to care, follow-up care, and disparities in outcomes for MBH conditions. Though the prevalence of MBH conditions and suicide rates are higher among urban, racial, and ethnic minority children compared to white children, they are less likely to be evaluated by MBH specialists or prescribed appropriate MBH medications, and have lower outpatient followup rates after a MBH pediatric ED visit. The reasons for such poor MBH outpatient follow-up have not been evaluated. This study will investigate the barriers that impede families from seeking follow-up care for their children and adolescents following a pediatric ED visit for MBH at the Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM). Study results will enable investigators to design targeted interventions to overcome identified barriers, which is critical to implementing equitable access to MBH care and optimal MBH outcomes among racial and ethnic minority children.

A Novel Therapeutic Avenue for Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) blood cancer accounts for 1 in 5 cases of acute leukemia in children, but it is responsible for more than half of deaths from leukemia in children. Despite improvements in survival rates over the past twenty years, AML cure rates have plateaued and



still lag significantly behind those for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Approximately 25% of children who have AML have a specific genetic change called a FLT3 mutation which is associated with a poor prognosis because this mutation makes the AML cells resistant to frontline cytarabine (AraC)-based chemotherapy protocols. Many pediatric AML patients require stem cell transplants after relapse with AraC-based chemotherapy. Therefore, new therapies effective against AraC-resistant AML are imperative to prolong survival and improve cures rate in children with AML. An anti-cancer drug and FLT3 inhibitor, Gilteritinib, can help these children, but does not always work. This study will investigate whether adding a drug called hydroxyurea (HU) to Gilteritinib treatment will improve responsiveness of FLT3 AML cells to AraC-based chemotherapy, which may improve outcomes for these AML patients.

Increasing Patient 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. 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 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 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. The CRA will improve cancer outcomes for young patients in metro Detroit by ensuring that they are successfully enrolled in these new cancer clinical trials and have access to the best possible care.

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 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 a key role in scientific progress by providing essential infrastructure, research 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 discover new cures. CRI supported physician scientists report the results of their innovative research to the worldwide scientific community via publication in top-tier scholarly journals and presentation at major conferences and symposia. The CRI advances child health through research innovation, education, and mentorship, thereby improving outcomes and the quality of life for children in our community.



2024 Festival of Trees

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Thank You!

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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 Convention & Show Services – The Tanari Family and Staff

The Honorable Mayor Abdullah Hammoud and Staff Mary Martin – Martin Media Services, LLC

Palmer Moving Services – Tom Estfan, Andrew Hill and Staff

Versacom Inc. – Marty Shoushanian and Amy Soczewa

OUR WONDERFUL SANTAS

Salvador Don Frank John Ron Cid Dykstra Fields McAfee Priestaff

FESTIVAL OF TREES ENTERTAINERS

Dearborn Parks & Rec Chorus comprising choristers from: Dearborn Community Chorus, Dearborn Summer Chorus, and Vanguard Voices Director: G. Kevin Dewy DJ April James, April Appelle Productions Detroit Tap Repertory Lincoln Park Dance Co. (The Tropical Wahines) Billy Kamalay

Maples Drummers & Chorus

Na Wahine O Ke Anuenue Polynesian Dance Group

Phoenix Theory Band Rivers End Brass

A NOTE FROM THERESA DIEFENBACH

We are thrilled to welcome you to our 40th Festival of Trees!

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the past chairpersons who started this amazing journey, that have brought us to this incredible milestone.

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, to 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.



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Serra Ford, Farmington Hills
Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit
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Taylor Ford
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www.avon.com/fundraiser/FOT2024/?rep=jlezotte

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Sharon Wourman Messenger Soul Of An Angel

Wendy Stolzenfeld & Shelley Stevens – English Gardens

2024 Festival Designers

TABLETOP TREES • WREATHS • CENTERPIECES

Allen Park Late Bloomers Garden Club

Janay Bongiorno Sandra Boucher Beverly Brown Maria Burt Therese Faletti Debbie Hinojosa Janis Lawson

Ann Arbor Good Thyme Garden Club

Garden Club of Dearborn

Paulette Baumgart

Mary Bugeia
Terry Bungee
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Carol Chrzastek
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Mariya Fogarasi and
Heather Yeaw

Kim Kovacs Gucwa Linda Gunderson Suzen Kingston Marrietta Lynch and Marybeth Lynch Verga Claudia Meyer Rachel Pearson

Diane Rebori Wanda Unis-Flaim Rose Wiggle

Grosse Ile Garden Club

Designed by Cynthia S. Blasses

Livonia Garden Club

Taylor Conservatory

Beverly Brown
Maria Burt
Yvonne Cleaver
Chris Easterwood
Val Hornack

Jane Letessa
Tan Newberry
Nancy Rudd
Cyndi Thompson
Christine Verklan

Taylor Garden Club

Beverly Brown
Maria Burt
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Karen Regentik
Cheryl Smith
Nancy Smith
Jeannie Terry
Pat Thomas
Pam Yurgalonis

The Garden Club of Dearborn, Inc. (est. 1915), a long-time supporter of Festival of Trees, was recently awarded first place for Best Decorated Holiday Tree or Greenery from the 2024 holiday season from the Michigan Garden Club. The Garden Club of Dearborn designs and submits wreaths, small trees and centerpieces for every Festival of Trees event.

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work bringing beauty to the holiday season and supporting our cause!

2024 Festival Designers

TABLETOP TREES • WREATHS • CENTERPIECES

A Clean Look Inc. –

Tinsel Titans: Speck and Hurt Sisters Elizabeth Becker Joanne DeSmet Donna Ferrante Cynthia Hurt Geralynn Hurt Katherine Speck Mary Jean Speck

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Women of St. Aidan

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Tony Cannoli Bakery Southgate



SWEETS & TREATS SERVED BY:

Michigan Cookie Project

A Serendipity Cakery & Ice Cream Shop

Homestead Kitchen

Jo Jo's Treats & Sweets



FESTIVAL OF TREES

A Benefit for the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

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

- Sunday, November 24
 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Private Event
 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
 Opening Day
- Monday, November 25 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 26
 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
 Free Admission to All Military
- Wednesday, November 2710:00 am to 2:00 pm

- Thursday, November 28
 Thanksgiving Day Closed
- Friday, November 29 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Saturday, November 30 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Sunday, December 1 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Last Day! Raffle drawing at 3:30 pm

We are proud to support the 40th Festival of Trees...

helping kids – just be kids.

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2024 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 an additional \$15 each
- Consider honoring a special person with this unique gift
- Your ornament will be mailed to you or the recipient in early December





The ornament can be ordered online at www.fot.org, by mail (or picked up 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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The Nutcracker is presented by the renowned Ballet Americana, featuring international stars of American ballet, accompanied by the Dearborn Symphony.



NUTCR

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center Saturday, December 7, at 1 & 7 p.m. Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$30-\$40

For tickets, call or visit the box office at (313) 943-2354,
Thursday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., or online
PARKS anytime at dearborntheater.com
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