

Festival of Trees

A Benefit for the Children's Foundation



Sweet Dreams

*Giving children
more days to play
and nights to dream*

November 22–30, 2025

"We are proud to have been a supporter of this great event from the beginning!"

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FESTIVAL OF TREES

on your 41st year of contributing
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Festival of Trees

A Benefit for the Children's Foundation

Preview Gala

Saturday, November 22, 2025

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

Evening Events

6:30 PM

Doors Open for VIPs

(Includes Access to the VIP Lounge/Open Bar)

Silent Auction Begins

Welcome from Tati Amare

(WDIV Live in the D Host)



7:30 PM

Patrons/Children Arrival

(Cash Bar)

9:00 PM

Silent Auction and 50-50 Raffle Close

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 Foundation.

We are pleased and proud to help
Festival of Trees
support a worthy cause like the
Children's Foundation

The Tanari Family



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Festival of Trees

A Benefit for the Children's Foundation

Preview Gala

EVENING EMCEE

Tati Amare



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
R R Y
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL THE
FAMILIES & FRIENDS
OF THE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
AND THE FESTIVAL OF TREES**



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Welcome to the Festival of Trees



November 2025

Dear Friends of Festival of Trees,

Happy Holidays! Welcome to this year's 41st Festival of Trees, kicking off the holiday season once again at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, the City of Dearborn, and the entire team at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center. This year's event is dedicated to ensuring "Sweet Dreams" for all children.

A special thank you also goes to our Board of Directors, Executive Committee, dedicated sponsors, designers, and the hundreds of volunteers whose efforts make this event possible.

As you enjoy the festivities, please remember the core purpose of this event: supporting Children's Hospital of Michigan's Clinical Research Institute. Festival of Trees is their largest annual fundraiser. Last year, we granted over \$800,000, and over the decades, we have contributed more than \$11,500,000 to the vital work of the Hospital and CRI. Your generous support makes this possible, funding numerous research projects that improve children's health locally and globally. Please consider making a donation via Square, Venmo, or PayPal by scanning the signs around the venue.

In October, we had the privilege of meeting the dedicated doctors, researchers, and research technicians at the Clinical Research Institute. It was an honor to connect faces with the names behind the incredible work, and their shared dedication to the children underscored the critical importance of this festival and the Evergreen Endowment fund. Your contributions empower them to develop more effective treatments for children in Michigan and worldwide. The dedication of the staff at the research center and hospital to the well-being of children is truly inspiring.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone we met in October for your vital contributions to enhancing children's lives. Your work enables the development of more effective treatments for children globally. Supporting research through initiatives like the Festival of Trees is crucial for overcoming the challenges many children face, as they represent our future.

Thank you for joining us at the 41st Festival of Trees. We are grateful for your continued support, ensuring children have "MORE DAYS TO PLAY, MORE NIGHTS TO DREAM, AND FOR KIDS TO JUST BE KIDS."



Scott Killingbeck
President of Festival of Trees



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For a
Successful
41st Festival
of Trees**



The Children's Foundation



November 2025

Dear Community,

For four decades, Festival of Trees has made the holidays brighter for everyone. Most importantly, though, the event has awarded more than \$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% of the National Institute of Health annual budget. As a result, physician scientists often have difficulty finding 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:

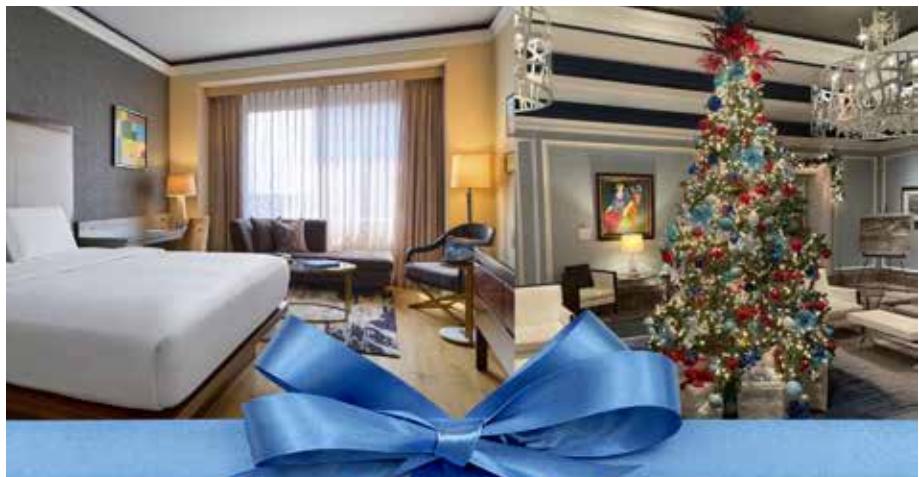
- developing treatments to improve the care of pediatric patients with life threatening bleeding disorders
- testing new combination drug therapies to improve outcomes for children with an acute myeloid leukemia subtype that has a poor prognosis
- developing strategies to help improve follow-up care for children seen in the emergency department for a mental health concern
- increasing access to the newest therapies for kids in Detroit with pediatric cancer

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,

Andrew Stein
President & CEO
Children's Foundation





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City of Dearborn Mayor



November 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Dearborn, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the 2025 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 41st year as a premier fundraiser for the Children's 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





2025 Board of Directors



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We are streamlining our operations to maximize funds for research, including transitioning to email communications. Please ensure we have your current email address. For the latest updates, visit FOT.ORG or follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, or X.

www.fot.org • FESTIVAL OF TREES • 734-280-7056

CEO of Children's Hospital of Michigan

Joshua Ulery, MBA, MHA, grew up on a family farm outside the small town of Palmyra, Illinois. The values he learned there — hard work, responsibility, and resilience — have guided him throughout his life. At the age of 19, seeking both challenge and opportunity, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, aboard the USS Blue Ridge LCC-19, the flagship of the 7th Fleet, Joshua quickly proved himself through dedication and discipline. His service earned him multiple commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Naval Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

Following his military career, Joshua dedicated himself to the field of healthcare, where he has steadily risen through the ranks from the boiler room into senior executive leadership. Today, he serves as Interim Chief Executive Officer & Chief Operating Officer of Children's Hospital of Michigan, where he oversees complex hospital operations and leads initiatives that improve efficiency, reduce costs, and expand patient services. His journey from farm life to the Navy to the boardroom reflects his lifelong drive to serve others, solve problems, and build organizations that make a difference.



Education has been a cornerstone of Joshua's success. He holds two Master's degrees in Business Administration and Health Care Administration, as well as a Bachelor of Science and numerous professional certifications. Beyond titles and achievements, what sets him apart is his ability to build lasting relationships — whether leading large teams, mentoring emerging leaders, or simply listening to colleagues and patients.

At his core, Joshua remains deeply grounded in the values instilled in him as a boy in rural Illinois. He brings the discipline of his military service, the technical expertise of his engineering background, and the vision of a healthcare executive to every role he takes on. His story is one of dedication, growth, and service — to his country, to his profession, and to the communities he serves.



2025 Research Projects at Children's Hospital of Michigan

Funding from the Festival of Trees is the most important source of support for innovative pediatric research projects at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. This support is vitally important to advance the science and practice of pediatric health care. Many nationally known research programs at Children's have been initiated with research funds from the Festival of Trees. In 2025 we have funded several important new initiatives:

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 follow-up 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.



Graft vs. Host Study

This project aims to identify an early biomarker for Graft vs. Host Disease (GVHD) in children after a bone marrow transplant, improving care and treatment of potential complications. Following a bone marrow transplant, 30–70% of children are affected by GVHD.

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.



Platelet Apoptosis in Thrombocytopenic Conditions

Thrombocytopenia (decreased numbers of blood platelets) is a very common condition seen in Hematology-Oncology. Patients with thrombocytopenia can have bleeding which may be life-threatening. This study aims to measure apoptosis (platelet cell death) in thrombocytopenic patients and further investigate the involved steps which may lead to new avenues of treatment.

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 world-wide 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.



In loving memory of Kim Leonard

This past August, the Festival of Trees organization lost one of our own. Kim was an extraordinary individual who consistently demonstrated compassion for the underdog, and she dedicated herself to various roles at Festival of Trees. She was a tree designer, tree chairperson, gift shop chair, and handling anything else that was handed to her.

We will truly miss her unwavering commitment, selfless spirit and wicked sense of humor. Kim inspired us all by her dedication to the cause. Her absence will, and is, deeply missed within the FOT family, and she will be cherished and remembered by us all.

2025 Festival of Trees



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2025 Festival of Trees



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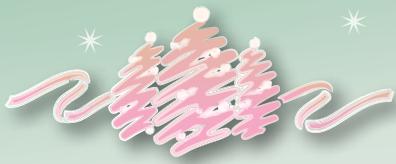
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DJ April James
from April Appelle
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Thank You!



Jack & Susie Baker

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A Special Thanks To...



Eric Brumm, Tiffany Johnson and the Staff of the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

Dean Darin, Olivia Zarndt 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

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PERFORMERS, PRESENTERS & PARTICIPANTS

Tati Amare

Dearborn Parks & Rec Chorus, comprising choristers from Dearborn Community Chorus, Dearborn Summer Chorus and Vanguard Voices

Director: G. Kevin Dewey

The Dearborn Symphony

Detroit Historical Society's Glancy Trains Modular Group

Detroit Tap Repertory

Cindy Fontana – Curlie's Face Art

The Fur Angels Therapy Dogs

Diane Jacek

Jim Jacek Photography

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April Appelle Productions

Maples Drummers & Chorus

Michigan Lego Users Group – Peter Guenther, David Laswell, Chris & Sandra Leach and Jim Morrin

Na Wahine O Ke Anuenue Polynesian Dance Group

Rivers End Brass

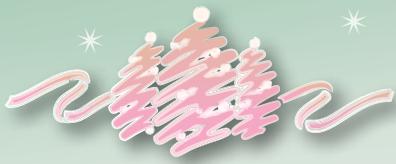
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The Tropical Wahines

Joshua Ulery, CEO of CHM

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Ann Arbor

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The ARK Association

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Sheryl Carroll

Casacaridad

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Samantha Dunn

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Grosse Ile Garden Club

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Festival of Trees

A Benefit for the Children's Foundation

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Michigan

Saturday, November 22

6:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Preview Gala

Sunday, November 23

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Holiday Hearts – Private Event

2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Opening Day

Monday, November 24

10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Tuesday, November 25

10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 26

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Closed early for the Holiday

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day Closed

Friday, November 28

10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 29

10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 30

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Last Day! Raffle drawings at 3:30 pm

*Get
Hooked!
JOIN THE
Festival Family*

We are streamlining
our operations to
maximize funds for
research, including
transitioning to email
communications.

Please ensure we
have your current
email address. For
the latest updates,
visit fot.org
or follow us on
Instagram, Facebook,
Snapchat, or X.

2025 Friendship Ornament

Become a Friend of Festival of Trees to benefit the Children's 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, PO Box 87175, Canton, MI 48187**

For additional information, please call
Festival of Trees at 734-280-7056.

Did you miss a year? A limited number of Friendship Ornaments from past years are available for purchase online and in the Gift Shop.

(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.

Order tickets online:
dearborntheater.com
or call 313-943-2354

December 6 – 2:00PM & 7:00PM
December 7 – 2:00PM

The Nutcracker *Ballet*

with the Dearborn Symphony





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