

Festival of Trees from page B1

bread houses finish off the motif. There is also a festive gift shop.

Barbara Derby of Farmington knelt next to a large carboard box from which she pulled branches of the tree she was methodically constructing. Over several hours, she patiently completed the process and the transformation was stunning: an old-fashioned Christmas tree full of hand painted ornaments, red velvet bows and twinkling lights.

Hand painted ornaments

"This is my eleventh year with the festival," said Derby. "Every ornament is hand painted. I'm a member of the Village Painters and that's how I got involved the first year. The next year, I jumped at the chance to do a tree myself. I also decorated a wreath."

Derby also painted thirteen

Santas on a holiday quilt donated by the National Society of Decorative Painters, of which she is a member. Several holiday-themed quilts hung on one wall of the center. They, too will be sold to the highest bidder.

Fourteen girls from Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills brought 40 table top trees decorated for sale.

"This has become an annual tradition," said Christopher Courage, their teacher. "These small trees are pretty creative. One is a cowboy theme, one is Barbie. Today our job was to bring the trees down, one from every homeroom."

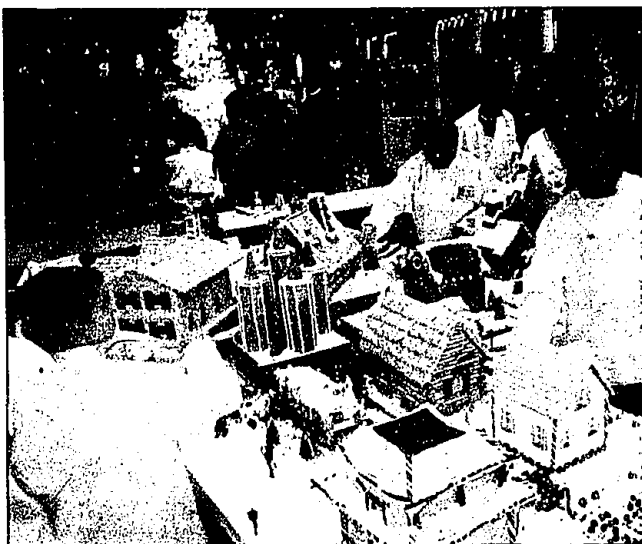
\$800,000 goal

Festival organizers hope to raise \$800,000 this year. Last year the event raised \$712,000. Currently the festival is support-

ing three research projects, all related to brain damage in very young children.

In addition to gift shop sales, tree and wreath sales, and admission charged to the week-long event, much of the revenue is raised during a preview party black-tie gala reception and auction that was held last Saturday evening.

Festival of Tree hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, 10-8 Friday, and 10-6 Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 adults; \$5 for seniors and \$3 for children. A Teddy Bear brunch is slated 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday Nov. 27 (tickets \$10 adult/\$5 children 2-12) and a Suing Party 8 p.m. to midnight also Saturday Nov. 27. Tickets are \$25. For information, call (313) 745-0178.



Edible buildings: Macomb County Community College culinary arts students assemble a giant gingerbread village.



The beginning: Barbara Derby begins by wrapping lights on each layer of branches as the tree is assembled.

Santaheads: Barbara Derby of Farmington designed this holiday wreath.

Focus:HOPE music fest on tap

Focus:HOPE's longest running fund raising event, driven exclusively by volunteers, is back for its 30th year. The Holiday Music Festival is slated 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 in the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit.

Performers include Dean Rutledge, Ortheia Barnes, Josh White, Jr., Ron Coden and Steve Fava, Charlie Latimer, Barbara Bredius and Al Ayoub, Matt Watroba, Robert Jones, Jan Krist, Jelly's Pierced Tattoo and David Reske. Neil Shine, former publisher and editor, will emcee the concert.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling 313-484-4423. Proceeds enable Focus:HOPE to continue its career training programs, food program, Center for Children, community arts program and other outreach initiatives.

The Holiday Music Festival's roots extend to the late 1960s when folk singers performing at venues throughout the area

banded together to assist the fledgling organization.

Humble beginnings

Focus:HOPE, founded in 1968 after the 1967 Detroit riots by the late Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis, began as a volunteer movement. Its immediate goal was to ease tension between the black and white communities. The first social issue Focus:HOPE attacked was hunger. Today, its Commodity Supplemental Food Program feeds 46,000 people every month. In 1981, Focus:HOPE expanded its vision and began training individuals for high paying careers in machining. Presently, its Machinist Training Institute has a 100 percent job placement rate. Forty percent of its students are women. To support parents in that program, working toward a better life, Focus:HOPE opened its Center for Children in 1987. Its stellar Montessori education has

prompted congressmen to enroll their children. And for many, the dream of earning a college degree became reality in 1993. At the Center for Advanced Technologies, industry and academia helped Focus:HOPE produce degreed engineer technologists who earn starting salaries well above the national average.

Focus:HOPE will continue to be innovative as it impacts society. In January, 1999 it began training individuals in information technologies, specifically network administrator and systems administrator. The program empowers individuals, especially women and minorities, with highly marketable knowledge and skill. The success of Focus:HOPE is due to its 800 colleagues, 51,000 supporters, the leveraging of public and private sector resources, and extensive community outreach. For more information on its numerous programs, please access the website at www.focushope.edu

Tamara's spa receives national acclaim

Tamara Institut de Beaute in Farmington Hills has been featured three times in national media in recent months.

In "Beauty on the Go: Fast Ways to Look Great!" the writers

and editors at Instyle magazine named Tamara's for best "on the go" treatments in the Midwest. Tamara's was also consulted by Natural Living Today for skin care advice, and was named for

best pedicure in the Detroit area by American Health magazine.

Tamara's will also be featured in the January edition of Harper's Bazaar. For more information, call 855-0474.



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