

# Festival of Trees

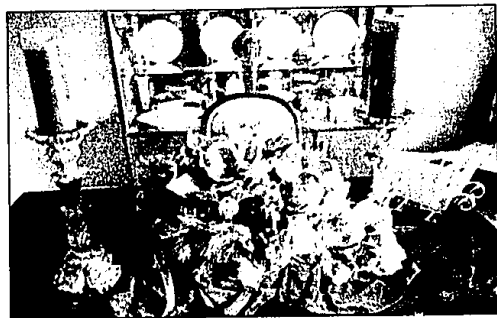
Volunteers brighten up holidays to help Children's Hospital



For the children: Michelle Mamo, coordinator of trees for the Festival of Trees, made and sold this Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas tree as part of the Festival of Trees. This tree has already been donated to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.



Christmas color: Red and white is the theme in the living room. This tree is Mamo's favorite of the nine Christmas trees that decorate her home.



In the spirit: A centerpiece decorates the dining room table.

BY KEN ADRIANZYK  
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Michelle Mamo remembers her first visits to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

Her 9-month-old son Bradley was hospitalized after the 1989 Bonaville Michelle sustained a concussion and broken ribs, while Brad also sustained a concussion and broke a growth plate in his left ankle. "He had a cast from the tip of his toe to the tip of his thigh for two to three months," Mamo said. "He wasn't even done crawling yet."

Over the next several months Michelle and husband Robert visited the hospital several times to see an orthopedic surgeon there. Bradley eventually recovered, but the visits remained with Michelle in her thoughts of the sick children there. "I just thought it was so sad," Mamo said. "I thanked God that my child recovered." The accident and her son's recovery made her realize not to take life and good health for granted, so she then volunteered with the Festival of Trees to help raise money for Children's Hospital.

Since its inception in 1985, the Festival of Trees has raised more than \$8.5 million for Children's Hospital of Michigan. The event has attracted more than 400,000 visitors from all over Michigan, Ohio and Canada.

#### It's truly festive

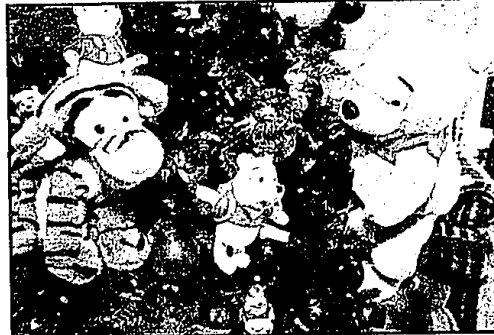
The Festival of Trees certainly helps Detroiters and suburbanites get into the holiday mood. Sponsored by Meijer, the festival is a public display of more than 100 professionally designed holiday trees, vignettes, gingerbread houses and wreaths. It also offers entertainment, a festive gift shop, a newly designed Santaland with children's activities, photos with Santa and a Secret Santa shop. A 2002 Mustang convertible also will be raffled off.

Honorary chair is Jack Krasula, chairman and CEO of Decision Consultants, an information technology services company based in Southfield. Krasula first became involved with helping Children's Hospital through his friendship with Joe and Carol Horonzy of Bloomfield Hills. Joe Horonzy is the chairman of Children's Hospital.

"Children are our future and this is one of the greatest children's hospitals in the world," Krasula said. Krasula said the hospital also had innovative research and technology efforts going there.

"Like any project that is successful, you have to have a great cause," Krasula said. "You have to get the best people and you capture their hearts."

Today Bradley is fine, Michelle Mamo



Oh, bother! Tigger and Winnie-the-Pooh decorate the Mamo tree which will be displayed at the Festival of Trees. Each toy will be given to a child at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Below, Billy Buttons characters add to the home's decorations.

says, at 5-feet, 5-inches tall and 135 pounds. "And he's only 12," she said.

Mamo has volunteered with the Festival of Trees for 12 years, returning year after year to help Children's Hospital. "If my work can raise money and they can get a piece of equipment they might not normally have, then I'm doing something good," she said.

"They're like your extended family there. If you have a child that's sick, it's a great place to go. You get close to them and they're like family."

#### Beautifully decorated

Mamo is the tree coordinator for this year's event, overseeing the 117 trees to be placed in the ballroom area. "It's going to be a full house," Mamo said. Last year approximately 100 trees were in that area.

The trees will be created by 95 designers. "This year's trees range from Barbie to Winnie-the-Pooh," Mamo said.

"This year is a great variety. It's fun to see what they've done." This year Mamo is creating a 7-foot Winnie-the-Pooh tree. The tree sponsor is MGM Grand Casino, and officials there are donating the tree to Children's Hospital. "They (MGM) are a special Santa," but they wanted to be at the hospital. I think it will help. It's going to have large stuffed animals and I hope it can make Christmas a little more merry for the children."

Krasula said Ameri-



#### 2001 Festival of Trees

What: 2001 Festival of Trees, the largest annual fund-raising event for Children's Hospital of Michigan, features more than 100 professionally designed holiday trees, vignettes, gingerbread houses and wreaths. It also offers entertainment, a festive gift shop, a newly designed Santaland with children's activities, photos with Santa and a Secret Santa Shop just for kids. A 2002 Mustang convertible will be raffled off.

Where: Cobo Center, Detroit

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Nov. 19; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 20 and Wednesday, Nov. 21; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 22; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 24; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 25.

Tickets: Advance are \$7 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3 children ages 2-12, under 2 are free. Gate tickets are \$8 adults, \$6 seniors and \$4 children ages 2-12, under 2 are free. (Raffle tickets for the 2002 Mustang are \$50 and can be purchased by calling (313) 745-0178.)

Gala Preview Party: Black-tie fund-raiser features live auction of donated trees, entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, sweet tables and a cash bar scheduled 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17. Tickets are \$250 benefactor, \$200 patron and \$150 friend. A champagne reception for benefactors and patrons is 6 p.m.

Teddy Bear Brunch: Fun activities and entertainment for entire family with visit from Santa Claus, scheduled 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12.

Dance Party: Dance in the setting of hundreds of decorated trees and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 24. Tickets are \$25 per person. An RSVP is required by Nov. 20.

For more information, call the Festival of Trees at (313) 968-TREE or visit the Festival of Trees' Web site at [www.fot.org](http://www.fot.org).



A wondrous tree: Shelby Mamo, 9, has an Alice in Wonderland Christmas tree in her bedroom that her mother Michelle created.



LISA LUCKOW-HEALY

#### Show of hands

Children create a caring community.

Celebrating Family, Page 3



MARTY FIGLEY

#### Best for bulbs

Here's how to hold bulbs over for another season.

Garden Spot, Page 4



MONTE NAGLER

#### People in place

Landscape photos can be enhanced by featuring people in them.

Focus on Photography, Page 6