



*Tracy Hospital  
Foundation*

*Focusing on the Big Picture*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Karen Mudd

(209) 833-2427

### **Christmas is Coming Early to Tracy!**

TRACY, CA – Beautifully decorated Christmas trees are popping up all over town to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival of Trees sponsored by the Tracy Hospital Foundation. This year's extravaganza takes place Friday, November 20, through Sunday, November 22, at the Tracy Ballroom.

Auctioned off at previous festivals, the trees provide a reminder of Christmases past and a glimpse of the magic and festivities awaiting visitors to this year's event. Donated by past auction winners, the trees are on display in Tracy shops and businesses and will be given to Tracy families in need after the festival ends.

"The trees fit perfectly with this year's festival theme 'Sentimental Journey' which recalls the journey we have taken over the past 15 years to improve the health of our community," says Foundation Executive Director Bob Green. "The Foundation awarded more than \$300,000 this year alone to community programs helping Tracy residents of all ages. The programs benefit the entire community, especially those in financial distress with little or no access to the health care services they need to live healthy, full lives."

A very special "Tribute Tree" is also on display at West Valley Mall to help brighten the holidays for Tracy military personnel. More than 400 Tracy residents are currently serving in the military in over 225 countries. In fact, the tree's decorators, Paul and Irene Sundberg, have a child in the military. Sutter Tracy emergency physician Andy Su, M.D., is sponsoring the tree to honor these brave men and women. Military Moms Tracy will be manning a table at the tree and collecting holiday gifts for the troops. The group helps Tracy families who have loved ones in the military.

"People can stop by the tree and choose a gift they would like to donate, and we'll include it in the care packages we are sending to our troops," says Military Moms founder

(more)

Marilyn Chorley, whose son is in the army. “It’s a great way to support our troops while they are serving our country and defending our freedoms. We also want to get out the word about our organization. So far, we’ve reached more than 2,500 people, and we’re sure there are even more people who could use our support.”

The festival will kick off Friday, November 20, at 10 a.m. with the Silver Bell Tea Social followed by special events on Saturday and Sunday, including the spectacular Premier Night Soirée Saturday at 6 p.m. Soirée guests will be transported back in time to the glamour of the 1940’s nightclubs where screen legends hobnobbed, power brokers dealt, and everyone danced into stardom. Enjoy a stunning evening of gourmet dining, dancing, and entertainment and take part in a silent auction, as well as a live auction for the exquisitely designed trees that form the centerpiece of the festival. Tickets are \$100 per person.

The ever popular Teddy Bear Tea Party will take place Saturday, November 21, at 9 a.m. and noon. Family Breakfast with Santa happens Sunday, November 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tickets for each event are \$15 per child and \$20 per adult. New this year! Guests will have the chance to bid on seats at the head tables for next year’s events.

Of course, dozens of beautiful designer decorated Christmas trees and wreaths will be on display all weekend. Saturday and Sunday daytime activities include tree viewing, Santa’s Secret Shop, photos with Santa, children’s crafts and more. General admission is \$2 for children and \$4 for adults, Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Since its debut in 1995, the festival has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund numerous health and wellness programs, including CPR for Kids, mental health services, parent training programs, and fitness and nutrition programs in Tracy schools.

For more information or to purchase festival tickets, please visit [www.suttertracy.org/foundation](http://www.suttertracy.org/foundation) or call the Foundation office at (209) 832-6052.

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The Tracy Hospital Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to improving the health and well-being of Tracy area residents. Since its establishment in 1993, the Foundation’s philanthropic efforts and fundraising events have provided over \$2 million to support Sutter Tracy Community Hospital and fund local non-profit organizations and programs that empower children to succeed and connect families with better health.