

# of gold hearts of gold

## special recognition award

### HOLIDAY TREE FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS



Many remember strolling through downtown Akron, gazing at the Holiday window displays. Sadly, those days ended when the department stores closed. Twenty-six years ago, the Volunteers of Akron Children's Hospital set out to create a new tradition of holiday displays in Akron and wanted to provide families with an event to celebrate the season once again. The Holiday Tree Festival was born and became the Volunteers' gift to the community that still shines today, remaining free for the public to attend.

The first Holiday Tree Festival took place at Quaker Square in 1982. Today, the annual festival is located at the John S. Knight Center in Downtown Akron. It continues to be one of the largest fundraising events for Akron Children's. An estimated 200,000 visitors enjoy the Holiday Tree Festival each year.

This awesome Festival of trees and holiday displays celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special Silver Gala in 2006 and exceeded the \$3.2 million fundraising mark with a donation of \$220,000 to support Akron Children's Hospital. The 25th annual Holiday Tree Festival Chair, Lisbeth Lenke of Copley, along with Co-Chairs Heather Jalbert of Ravenna and Diana Goodpasture of Akron led a team of more than 1,200 volunteers who dedicated thousands of hours to make the silver anniversary event a success.

Special mention to those volunteers who have been with the Holiday Tree Festival since its inception include Reb Baldwin of Akron, Madeline Bozzelli of Cuyahoga Falls, Becky Considine of Akron, Susann Drbal of Silver Lake, Alfreda Layne of Uniontown, and Marilyn McGuckin of Uniontown.

*presenting sponsor*



nominated by  
Akron Children's Hospital  
member Angela Sass