

The annual Festival of Trees begins Monday, November 29 when fifty individuals and groups will transform the Marina Civic Center into "Christmas, Through the Eyes of a Child." Each tree, wreath, centerpiece, or gingerbread house displayed through December 3 will take on a life of its own, truly its own personality. Civic groups, businesses, church groups, and families work throughout the year to create the designs, and the Panama City Rescue Mission auctions them off during festival week at several special events and the general admission. Funds benefit Bethel Village, a recovery home for hurting women and children. Homeless children are invited to tour the designs, meet Santa and receive gifts. This event has become a family tradition and meets the needs of the most precious of our community.



## **How can you participate?**

### **Donate and/or design a tree, centerpiece, wreath, or gingerbread house.**

We welcome anyone who would like to donate and decorate a tree, etc. Your decoration is up to you. Our theme can be used in your design or it can just be traditional. Creativity is encouraged. Some donors decorate a tree in memory of a loved one, as a family project, to promote a cause or to advertise a business. Your decorated item is a donation to the Panama City Rescue Mission. We can provide you with a donation verification letter should you desire it for tax purposes. Go to [www.pcrmission.org/festival.html](http://www.pcrmission.org/festival.html) for designer guidelines, form and designer workshop information.

### **Volunteer**

It takes more than 100 volunteers to fully plan and staff the Festival of Trees. Our volunteers perform a variety of jobs including selling admission tickets, helping people with their auction bids, staffing the gift shop, and helping our little visitors at the Festival Lunch with Santa program for homeless children. Call 850-769-0783 and ask for Tammy Russell, our volunteer coordinator.

### **Advertise in our program**

We appreciate the local businesses and individuals who support the Festival by placing an ad in our program. Our program reaches more than 1,200 visitors to the Festival each year. Contact Amanda Bawn, at 850-624-6278 for more information.

### **Donate to the silent auction or gifts for needy children**

The Festival will solicit and accept retail items for our silent auction, Children's Secret Shop, and Christmas Shop. Also, Children, Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, in financial need will attend the Lunch with Santa on Dec. 3. You can provide them with age-appropriate presents. Drop off items at Bethel Village. Call 850-914-0533.

### **Sponsor homeless women and children**

Your business can benefit from sponsoring one event or a specific Festival of Trees area. Sponsorship benefits include signage and recognition in the area you are sponsoring. Call Neil Grindal at 850-769-0783.

**Pray...**for the success of the 2010 Festival of Trees and Bethel Village Women's Recovery Program.

**Follow us on Facebook,** search for: Festival of Trees benefiting Panama City Rescue Mission's Bethel Village.