

Dear Friends,

Believe it or not we're already planning for the Holidays! We hope you're ready to start thinking about the **ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES 2009** to benefit Hope House. Last year's extremely successful event raised over \$45,000 toward changing lives and breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and children in the area. We would like to invite you to use your talents to sponsor a tree this year to assist Hope House in their endeavors.

We will again this year be at the **Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway**. This will be the most spectacular Hope House Festival of Trees ever! The dates will be December 4th through December 12th from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm each day. We will continue to have our extra activities; Fashion Show and Luncheon, Tea and our Children's Breakfast. We also have some dates open for private Holiday parties, so if your company hasn't planned theirs yet give us a call to see what we can do for you. You couldn't ask for a more festive atmosphere with your decorations already in place, not to mention the benefit to Hope House and the community.

You will find enclosed an information sheet, and a reservation form. We ask that you **return** the reservation form to us by **Friday, October 16th** to ensure your placement in the Program Book. Because of the number of entries please make sure your **form is complete before mailing**. All entries are accepted, unless the theme is inappropriate, until we reach 120 trees. After we have 120 entries any other forms we receive will go on a waiting list in the order they were received so that if someone from the initial 120 drops out others may participate.

Historically the types of trees that have performed best at the Hope House Festival of Trees are the ones with the heaviest emphasis on permanent decorations. Gift certificates are welcome but we are asking that you do not decorate the tree with the certificates of images of the certificates. **Please place the certificates in an envelope with a list of what is included.** We also ask that if you have **items to display under the tree that you place them on some type of form or place the items in a basket with the tree name and number attached to it an attach written description on how they are to be displayed. This will help us keep everything intact when the trees are moved.**

And while trees are the main focus, if you are unable to donate a tree you might consider donating a wreath or two.

The trees will be judged by area decorators, certificates awarded and the winners announced December 4th. The winners will also be posted on the Hope House web site, www.hopehouseva.org and posted in the local papers. We have enclosed a listing of the categories so that you have the option to choose a theme based on one of the categories.

Due to the popularity of this event, we would encourage you to reply as soon as possible. Thanks for helping to make Festival of Trees 2009 a success! If you have any questions or need further information, please call me at (540) 371-4886. We're looking forward to working with you!

Sincerely,
Deborah H. Bliss, Tree Chair