

HARBOR SPRINGS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOURTH ANNUAL HARBOR SPRINGS GINGERBREAD CONTEST AGAIN DEDICATED TO HELPING CHARITIES

The Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce has announced dates for the Fourth Annual Gingerbread Contest, an event once again aimed at helping area charities by securing private donations.

The 2007 contest was the first year that the event took on a philanthropic twist, resulting in private donations to both local and national charities totaling \$2489. The entry securing the most donations during the display period receives the People's Choice Award and is then matched in donation dollars up to \$500 by the HSACC. Last year's winner was the R.F.C. Fire Rescue Team.

As always, the contest is open to all ages and entry forms, pre-approved bases, and guidelines will be available beginning November 7 at Stafford's Pier Restaurant. Additional information is now available on the HSACC website. Entry forms must be returned no later than November 29, 2008 and all gingerbread creations must be delivered to Stafford's Pier Restaurant on Tuesday, December 2 in time for the public display, running December 3 - 13, 2008.

Upon entering, creators will be asked to choose a charity or cause to benefit from the success of their entry. For example, a group of individuals last year decided to build their creation on behalf of The Harbor Springs Area Historical Society. As a result, all donations made on behalf of that entry, went to the HSAHS. The success of the donations is likely based on the creativity and imagination of the entry.

"Last year we were thrilled to see 26 entries. We'd love for that number to grow even more this year. It's fast becoming a tradition that people enjoy and look forward to. The night of judging, when winners were announced was really exciting last year. The lounge [at Stafford's Pier Restaurant] was filled with families and community members anticipating the results. All in all, it was a great, family-oriented event that benefits many great causes." explained Jody Ewbank, president of the Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

For additional information on making a prize donation to be awarded to winners, please contact Jody Ewbank at jodye@staffords.com or 231.526.6201.

Please visit www.harborspringschamber.com for additional information on membership to the HSACC or for more details on this year's Gingerbread Contest.

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