

# A 'Night of Lights'

**NOV. 21 GALA SET**  
to aid Hands On! museum

**BY JOE TENNIS**  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.** — It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas inside the halls of the Hands On! Regional Museum.

And, for a moment, it also looked that way on the street.

Last week, as Kristine Carter, the museum's marketing manager, tried to get everything in line for the current "Festival of Trees," she happily gazed on Johnson City's Main Street and found a welcome surprise: the donation of a dollhouse, carted to the museum's front door on a

## IF YOU GO

■ **What:** "Night of Lights Gala"

■ **When:** Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.

■ **Where:** Hands On! Regional Museum, 315 East Main St., Johnson City, Tenn.

■ **Details:** Includes dinner by Main Street Catering;

silent auction; live auction by Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey; valet parking; and dancing with music by Bag a' Cats. The event is a fundraiser for Hands On!

■ **Tickets:** \$125

■ **Info:** (423) 434-4263 Ext. 108

flatbed truck.

Such donations, actually, are commonplace this time of year, as the museum hosts the "Showing of the Trees" exhibit through Nov. 18, as part of the "Festival of Trees" events.

Dozens of designer Christmas trees, wreaths and centerpieces are now on display as a preview to Nov. 21's "Night of Lights

Gala," the museum's biggest annual fundraiser, as trees are auctioned to help fund its educational programs.

Josh Smith of News Channel 11 is hosting this year's event.

Among the trees on exhibit is "Touch of Glass," a creation by Jenni Cocchia, featuring hand-blown glass ornaments by

James Lang; plus Tammy O'Hare's "Baby Boy Blue," a tree decorated in blue with snow buddies and baby shoes.

Other donations slated to be auctioned include a diamond pendant and a trip to Banff, Canada.

Trees at the auction may nab \$75 to \$400 each, Carter said.

"We've had designers from around the region," Carter added. "They have decorated for us. And, we're hoping to raise \$60,000."

After the auction, the museum's "Festival of Trees" concludes with "Santa's Saturday" on Dec. 13, noon-3 p.m., in which children are invited to visit with Santa and give him their wish list.

[jennis@bristolnews.com | (276) 791-0704]



JOE TENNIS/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**Kristine Carter, the marketing manager at Hands On! Regional Museum, shows off decorated trees that are part of the "Festival of Trees."**

## Fundraising drive to run until Nov. 21

**JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.** — Develop Africa, an organization based out of Johnson City, is raising money for scholarships for 250 students in Sierra Leone.

The fundraising drive, part of GlobalGiving.com's Project Challenge Initiative, goes through Nov. 21 with a goal of \$3,000 per organization.

Sierra Leone has a strong need for educational resources, and donations of any size — from \$10 to \$1,000 — are needed and appreciated.

To donate money or resources, or to volunteer, visit [www.developafrica.org/go](http://www.developafrica.org/go), or contact organization president Sylvester Renner at [sylvester@developafrica.org](mailto:sylvester@developafrica.org) or call (423) 282-0006.

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