



Sutter brings back Tree of Lights; proceeds fund local scholarships

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After a two-year hiatus, the Tree of Lights ceremony returns at 6 p.m. Tuesday to Vallejo's Sutter Solano Cancer Center, 100 Hospital Drive.

Hosted by the Sutter Solano Charitable Foundation, the Dr. Merle Trewin Memorial Tree of Lights ceremony is a holiday celebration that provides an opportunity to remember loved ones and to designate a gift in their name or memory, said the foundation's regional director, Frank Malifrando.

"These gifts help to raise funds for the Dr. Merle Trewin Scholarship," Malifrando said. "We will honor our loved ones with the reading of names and award six scholarships for students in the health fields at Touro University and Napa and Solano community colleges."

The tradition was begun many years ago but "fell by the wayside" over the past couple of years, Malifrando said, adding that foundation board members felt the time was right to revive it.

"It's a re-energized board, and these are tough times in Vallejo, and we recognize times are hard with the national economy, and we wanted to add more light to the community," Malifrando said. "To say we're here."

Other ceremony highlights will include carols by the Sutter Solano employee choir and an appearance by Santa Claus, who will hand out gifts for the children.

The event is free and open to the public, Malifrando said.