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## **Christkindlmarket Des Moines Expands in Third Year Downtown**

### ***More than 30 Vendors to Create "German Village" Experience***

DES MOINES, Oct. 11, 2018 – The Des Moines European Heritage Association (DMEHA) has announced that its 2018 Christkindlmarket Des Moines (CDM) will be open Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at Cowles Commons in downtown Des Moines. The free event drew more than 40,000 visitors in 2017 and the expanded 2018 version will offer marketgoers more than 30 vendors to visit in a venue that will extend into adjacent Walnut Street.

"We are amazed at the overwhelming positive response that our second annual Christkindlmarket Des Moines received last year and we're excited to make the 2018 event even bigger and better," says Suzanne Hull, DMEHA president and founder. "Based on the great interest we've seen in central Iowa, we know people in Iowa and beyond will support and enjoy this type of culturally based holiday event that's not readily available in many areas."

Now in its third year, Christkindlmarket Des Moines has received grants from the Iowa Arts Council and Bravo Greater Des Moines. Building on this momentum, the 2018 Christkindlmarket will feature an expanded variety of gift vendors selling their goods from authentic wooden huts made by local high school students. This year's market will include more items imported directly from Germany such as steins, nutcrackers, ornaments, holiday foods and candies. From the Midwest, vendors will offer everything from wooden toys, gourmet oils, gingerbread, strudel, handmade ornaments, candles and wooden utensils. In addition, attendees will get to see several different artisans create their wares directly. These include a tinsmith, a chainsaw carver, a wreath-maker and a traditional wood carver.

In another nod to authenticity, CDM has partnered with Usinger's Famous Sausage to serve marketgoers traditional grilled bratwurst that the family-owned company has been making since 1880. Hungry attendees can get their bratwurst fix at the new "Bratwurst Imbiss am Markt" stand in the central part of CDM.

Yuletide Hall will again serve as the market's enclosed, heated entertainment tent. It will offer marketgoers a great space to sit and watch the local and regional musical acts while they enjoy easy access to the wide variety of beer, Glühwein and other beverage options while they eat European-inspired food from one of the curated vendors.

The opening ceremony on Friday at 6 p.m. will feature a children's lantern procession to help announce the arrival of St. Nikolaus and the Christkind, the traditional Christmas angel from German lore, who will officially open the 2018 Christkindlmarket Des Moines.

"This year's Christmas market will help transport our visitors to an old German village without having to travel to Europe," Hull says. "From the aromatic smell of Glühwein and roasted nuts in the air to the holiday music from Yuletide Hall, time spent with us will create lasting memories for the entire family."

The 2018 Christkindlmarket Des Moines will open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2. There is no admission cost.

As always, the DMEHA continues to seek volunteers to assist in all of its year-round activities, as well as the Christkindlmarket. Volunteer shifts start at only two to three hours. All interested in volunteering or becoming a sponsor should visit the main website at [www.christkindmarketdsm.com](http://www.christkindmarketdsm.com) or the group's Facebook page: [ChristkindlmarketDesMoines](https://www.facebook.com/ChristkindlmarketDesMoines) or on Instagram at: [christmasdesmoines](https://www.instagram.com/christmasdesmoines) or Twitter at: [christmasdsm](https://twitter.com/christmasdsm)

**Christkindlmarket Des Moines 2018 Sponsors:** Thanks to the generous support of MidAmerican Energy Company, Carpenters Local 106, Museum of Danish America, REL Productions, Centennial Warehousing Corporation, Darcy Hines Designs, Gail's Photography and Designs and Merrill Lynch.

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The Des Moines European Heritage Association (DMEHA) is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit that connects Iowans with European traditions, language education and cultural experiences and that provides resources and tools to other cultural heritage organizations.

**Photo Links from 2017 Christkindlmarket Des Moines,** Credit: Des Moines European Heritage Assn.

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