FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hessen Haus Sponsors the Krampus Parade at Christkindlmarket Des Moines

The Krampus Parade is a one-of-a-kind cultural experience not to be missed!

DES MOINES, October 28, 2026 – Celebrating its 11th year in downtown Des Moines, Christkindlmarket Des Moines (CDM) will take place Dec 3 – 6 and Dec 10 – 13, 2026 at Principal Park.

"We're pleased to partner with Hessen Haus to present this traditional winter procession where people dress as Krampus – the horned, folklore companion of Saint Nicholas - and parade through the Festival on the first Thursday and second Saturday of Christkindlmarket Des Moines," shares Suzanne Hull, Director of Christkindlmarket Des Moines.

"Hessen Haus is thrilled to combine efforts with Christkindlmarket Des Moines this holiday season," said Josh Templeman, General Manager of Hessen Haus. "The partnership is a great addition to "A Kramp-ish Christmas" where our restaurant will deck out the entire building for a pop-up event embracing red lighting, thematic decor, and the German Christmas tradition of Krampus. We hope you will join us at both events and enjoy all aspects of what a Krampus-filled Christmas can bring."

Visit Christkindlmarket Des Moines to enjoy the holiday season as you participate in a 750-year-old tradition. Shop regional vendors selling old-world, hand-crafted products from wooden vendor stalls; enjoy lively performances of polka music, traditional dance and choirs in Yuletide Hall; participate in children's activities; sip Glühwein (warm, mulled wine) and savor European beer.

The festival is open to the public free of charge:

Thu, Dec 3, 5pm – 9pm (7pm Krampus parade)
Fri, Dec 4: 11am – 9pm
Sat, Dec 5: 11am – 9pm
Sun, Dec 6: 11am – 5pm

Thu, Dec 10, 5pm – 9pm
Fri, Dec 11: 11am – 9pm
Sat, Dec 12: 11am – 9pm (7pm Krampus Parade)
Sun, Dec 13: 11am – 5pm

IECC is always looking for enthusiastic nonprofits, volunteers, sponsors and vendors to be involved and help CDM fully encompass the European holiday spirit. Visit our website https://christkindlmarketdsm.com for more information on our nonprofit partnership program, volunteering, vendor applications and sponsor opportunities. All volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. NEW FOR 2026: ***Volunteer Together: Adult + Middle Schooler Combo Teams welcome in select areas!

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Christkindlmarket Des Moines 2026 Sponsors:

Due to the generous support of numerous donors and sponsors, we're able to offer Christkindlmarket Des Moines free to our community. 2026 sponsors included:

	Bravo Greater Des Moines grant recipient
Yuletide Hall Sponsor	Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel
Yuletide Hall Stage Sponsor	National Endowment for the Arts & the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority
KinderKorner Sponsor	MidAmerican Energy Foundation
Weihnachtswald (Christmas Tree Forest)	Siegwerk USA Inc.
Krampuslauf (Krampus Parade) Sponsor	Hessen Haus
Prost und Pause Stube (Vendor & Volunteer Lounge) Sponsor	Bank Iowa
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Annual Hut Sponsor	The Arlyn & Alice Hesse Family Blake and Abby Kessler Community Choice Duke Rentals Greater Iowa Credit Union GreenState Credit Union Hessen Haus Iowa State Bank Precision Garage Door of Des Moines Veridian Credit Union
Vendor Stall Sponsorship	The Boesenbergs The Härtel Family Prairie Meadows The Rasmussen Group

The Iowa European Cultural Connection is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit that connects Iowans with European traditions, language education and cultural experiences.

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