

## ***Gingerbread houses displayed in Marcus Whitman lobby***

The Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, in cooperation with Blue Mountain Community Foundation, is pleased to announce

Mid-century modern ranch. Rustic cabin. Historic downtown bank building. All these and more, constructed in fragrant gingerbread, held together with royal icing and decorated with sparkling sugar, have taken up residence in the Marcus Whitman Hotel & Resort lobby.

Local pastry chefs, bakers, and a few elves have been busily designing and constructing elaborate gingerbread houses as a special way to celebrate the holidays in downtown Walla Walla. Six gingerbread houses are on display through December 22<sup>nd</sup>, competing for the title, “Best Gingerbread House – 2007.”

In the spirit of the season, the display and contest is also a fundraiser for Blue Mountain Community Foundation’s efforts to aid the homeless in Walla Walla. Viewers are asked to vote for their favorite gingerbread house by making a cash donation in the jar for that house. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the house with the most money will be declared the winner.

Contributing chefs, bakers, and elves include Sidney Frey of 26brix, Baker Boyer Elves, Martin & Cindy Mettler with Raffaella Exiana & Ron Williams for The Bakery Shoppe, Tiffany Jenes of Bright’s Candies, Beckie Yanero of The Marc at Marcus Whitman Hotel, and the Hemenway Girls at Verve Coffee + Art House.

The First Annual Gingerbread House Display and Contest is part of an expanded holiday events schedule from the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation. Other events include the Macy’s Parade of Lights December 1, Hot Cocoa with Santa and a Toys for Tots Drive December 8, and Starbucks Reading Room December and a Blue Mountain Food Bank food drive on December 15.

These events and others throughout the year are presented by the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation and Community Partners one-eighty networks, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, St. Mary’s Medical Center, the Union-Bulletin and Charter Communications. More information may be found at [www.downtownwallawalla.com](http://www.downtownwallawalla.com) or by calling 529-8755.