



## **City of McKinney Press Release**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **McKinney marks 30 years of holiday traditions with “Dickens of a Christmas...Home for the Holidays” Thanksgiving weekend**

McKINNEY, TEXAS (Nov. 12, 2010) – Thanksgiving weekend 2010 marks thirty years of one of McKinney’s hometown family favorites, Dickens of a Christmas...Home for the Holidays. During the family event, Historic Downtown McKinney transforms into a winter wonderland of shopping, entertainment, activities, food and more with the magic of the holiday season.

“During the Dickens of a Christmas, the 12-block area of the historic commercial district will transform into a child’s greatest wish and an adult’s fondest memory. Santa and his reindeer and joyous holiday music will put just about anyone in the mood for the holiday season,” said McKinney Main Street Program Director Ty Lake.

In addition to shopping, fun treats like decorations, carolers, children’s arts and crafts, pony rides, a 30-horse Dickens Carousel and a few surprises along the way bring the holiday spirit to the streets of the 162 year-old downtown.

#### **Event Dates and Times:**

November 26: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

November 27: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

November 28: Noon – 6 p.m.

On Friday, Nov. 26, at 6:15, the City of McKinney will hold the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Mitchell Park, located in Historic Downtown. Dickens of a Christmas is free and open to the public. Parking is also free and can be found throughout Historic Downtown McKinney. Visit [www.downtownmckinney.com](http://www.downtownmckinney.com) for more information, including a parking map.

The following events in Historic Downtown McKinney take place throughout the Dickens of a Christmas weekend.

#### **Follow the Star Nativity Scene**

*Friday, Nov. 26, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 27, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.*

Enjoy a one-of-a-kind Christmas experience at Follow the Star – A Light in the City, a live nativity production hosted by Christ Fellowship (formerly McKinney Fellowship Bible

Church). Live animals and more than 80 people dressed in period clothing will share the greatest Christmas story ever told. Drama, lights, sets and an interactive Bethlehem Marketplace will transport you to the world as it was 2,000 years ago. Located at the corner of Louisiana and Church Street. For more information, visit [www.christfellowshiphome.com](http://www.christfellowshiphome.com).

*Dickens of a Christmas kicks off the holiday season Thanksgiving weekend, but the fun doesn't stop there. Celebrate Home for the Holidays throughout the months of November and December with these family, fun-filled events in Historic Downtown McKinney.*

### **Believe! 2010**

*Saturday, November 27 at 7 a.m. at Mitchell Park, located one block west of the square.* 10K Certified Believe! Run, 5K Certified Believe! Run, One-Mile Holiday Walk and the Great Santa Chase for kinds 12 and under. Join us back in the square for the awards ceremony on the Dickens Main Stage and enjoy holiday shopping, dining and all the activities associated with the 30th Annual Dickens of a Christmas...Home for the Holidays. For more information, visit [www.believemckinney.org](http://www.believemckinney.org).

### **McKinney Repertory Theatre Presents *A Christmas Carol***

*Friday, November 26 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Saturday, November 27 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Sunday, November 28 at 2 p.m. at the McKinney Performing Arts Center*

Bring your entire family to enjoy the productions of Dickens' timeless story. This adaptation of the enduring classic places special emphasis on the ghostly apparitions in the spirit of Dickens' original text, and is full of Victorian song accompanied by music on the vintage theatre pipe organ. For more information, visit [www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org](http://www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org).

Events held in Historic Downtown McKinney are possible due to generous community supporters. Sponsors this year include Title Sponsors the City of McKinney and Honda Cars of McKinney, in addition to Medical Center of McKinney, Nissan/Buick/GMC of McKinney, Independent Bank, 97.5 KLAK, Pat Lobb Toyota, Plum Creek Primitives in Downtown McKinney, Gather in Downtown McKinney, State Farm Insurance and McKinney Community Development Corporation.

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### **About Downtown**

McKinney enjoys one the oldest authentic and thriving historic downtowns in Texas. What was once the center of all commercial and social activity for Collin County, our city continues to serve as a viable retail, dining, entertainment and business center. Downtown offers more than 100 unique shops and more than a dozen unique restaurants, including upscale restaurants featuring award-winning chefs, sandwich shops, outdoor patio dining and neighborhood pubs. Downtown McKinney also offers an assortment of specialty shops, art galleries featuring the works of local artists, furniture stores, exquisite antique collections, gift shops and apparel boutiques. For more information, visit [www.downtownmckinney.com](http://www.downtownmckinney.com).

**About McKinney**

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of more than 127,500. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments, and it was recently ranked as the #5 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine. Visit the city's Web site at [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).

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