

# Calendar

## December 2011

| By Katie Schroeder |

### Top Ten

#### Holly Ball

**2** Barrington Children's Charities hosts its holiday fundraiser, Holly Ball, at the Barrington Hills Country Club. Guests will enjoy cocktails, dinner and dancing to music by The Pete Fleming Orchestra at this black-tie affair. Luxury live auction packages include a Palm Springs getaway and a Yorkie puppy, complete with a grooming and training package. **Dec. 10.** 6:30PM. Tickets \$175. At 300 W. County Line Road, Barrington, [barringtonchildrenscharities.com](http://barringtonchildrenscharities.com)

#### Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!

**3** The whole family will enjoy *It's Christmas Charlie Brown! The Musical* as The Wilmette Theatre brings this holiday movie to life onstage. **Dec. 10** and **Dec. 17.** Showtimes vary. Tickets \$12. At 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, 847.251.7424, [wilmettetheatre.com](http://wilmettetheatre.com)

#### Chicago Children's Charities

**4** Join Chicago Children's Charities for the original Holly Ball. Enjoy a black-tie evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing. **Dec. 17.** 8PM to midnight. Tickets \$150. At 1365 N. Dearborn Parkway, [chicagochildrenscharities.org](http://chicagochildrenscharities.org)

#### Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

**5** This always-packed holiday event hosted by Catholic Charities and attended by more than 1,000 guests annually benefits the 228,000 children who receive assistance from the organization each year. **Dec. 2.** 6:30PM. Tickets \$400. At Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 312.948.6797, [catholiccharities.net](http://catholiccharities.net)

#### Children's Celebrates Chicago

**6** The Founders' Board of Children's Memorial Hospital kicks off the holiday season with this inaugural ball. A VIP cocktail reception at the new Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is followed by a holiday party at the nearby Museum of Contemporary Art. The evening benefits the Founders' Board's \$10 million pledge to the hospital's Department of Family Services. **Dec. 1.** 6PM. Tickets \$150; \$250 VIP. At 225 E. Chicago Ave. and 220 E. Chicago Ave., [childrensmemorial.org](http://childrensmemorial.org)

#### 30th Holiday Celebration

**7** Metropolitan Family Services honors its Family of the Year—the Knuepfer family—at the 30th annual Holiday Celebration at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago. Live entertainment, silent and live auctions, and a wine raffle featuring select vintages are among the highlights. **Dec. 3.** 6PM. Tickets \$350. At 160 E. Pearson St., 312.986.4046, [metrofamily.org](http://metrofamily.org)

#### The HoliDose

**8** Dose Market presents a special holiday edition of its monthly market at River East Art Center. Shop an expanded selection of vendors for this season's top gifts, and have them wrapped on-site for one-stop shopping. **Dec. 4.** 10AM to 4PM. Tickets \$10; \$8 in advance. At 435 E. Illinois St., [dosemarket.com](http://dosemarket.com)

#### A Christmas Story, The Musical

**9** *You'll shoot your eye out, kid!* America's favorite Christmas movie comes to life on the stage in this hilarious holiday musical, which culminates a five-city



The Joffrey Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

## The Nutcracker

**1** The Joffrey Ballet presents its annual holiday tradition of *The Nutcracker*, featuring the full Joffrey company and local children's choruses. **Dec. 9-27.** Showtimes vary. Tickets \$30-\$115. At 50 E. Congress Parkway, 800.982.2787, [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). Catch a special performance as The Women's Board of the Joffrey Ballet presents the 14th annual Nutcracker Family Dinner at The Palmer House Hilton. Guests of all ages enjoy dinner and either the matinee or evening performance of *The Nutcracker* at Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (transportation via trolley).

**Dec. 10.** 4PM. Tickets \$200 and up for adults; \$150 children. At 17 E. Monroe St., [joffrey.org/nutdinner](http://joffrey.org/nutdinner)

national tour with performances in Chicago. **Dec. 14-30.** Showtimes vary. Tickets \$35-\$79. At The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., [thechicagotheatre.com](http://thechicagotheatre.com)

#### Ground Zero 360°

**10** Catch the final days of *Ground Zero 360°* at The Field Museum. This exhibit

commemorates the New York City policemen, firefighters and other first responders during the aftermath of September 11 through large-scale, previously unpublished photographs and other works. **Through Jan. 1, 2012.** At 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312.922.9410, [fieldmuseum.org](http://fieldmuseum.org)