

# Families Enjoy Choosing Christmas Trees and Giving Back at Sugar Pines Farm

For generations, families from Geauga County and beyond have enjoyed the tradition of choosing and cutting their own Christmas trees at Sugar Pines Farm in Chester Township. This year, visitors to the farm will find even more opportunities for family fun and a unique way to “give back” while visiting.

Last year, owners Fritz and Jane Neubauer started something new at the farm with hopes of raising funds for a young boy they knew named Grayson who was fighting leukemia. A designated area was set up with a special selection of small trees that were available by donation only, with all proceeds going towards this cause. There were Charlie Brown trees, cute table top trees and small live trees for re-planting.

Customer response was overwhelming, resulting in over \$2,500 raised. So, the owners have decided to try it again, with funds raised this year going to Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital. Surprisingly, this past spring a second close family friend’s son, Colin,



was diagnosed with leukemia. Both Colin and Grayson were treated successfully at Rainbow. The parents of both children simply can’t say enough about the excellent care their children received there.

Jody Lathwell, Colin’s mother, also

works part time at the farm. Lathwell explained, “At all levels, the staff at Rainbow 2 pulled Colin and our entire family through some really tough times

with their compassion, kindness and expertise. They became part of our family, sharing not only the tears, but amazingly, the laughter and joy. We are all better people because of the wonderful spirits of the folks who cared for Colin.”

Visitors to the farm this year will find a number of other new opportunities as well, including a wider variety of fresh pre-cut trees, a brand new campfire pit area, a larger selection of hot beverages and holiday treats, an extended hay wagon ride schedule and scheduled appearances by Santa.

Sugar Pines Farm is located at 9500 Mulberry Road in Chester Township and is open seven days a week from the day after Thanksgiving until sold out of trees. The farm sells cut-your own, fresh pre-cut and live balled Christmas trees as well as fresh wreaths and greens. *For more information call 440-729-1019 or visit [www.sugarpinesfarm.com](http://www.sugarpinesfarm.com) or [facebook.com/sugarpinesfarm](https://www.facebook.com/sugarpinesfarm).*