



photo by Sarah Pack

“Chief elf” Elizabeth Williams stands in the MUSC Horseshoe, where the Angel Tree parade ends.

‘High on caffeine, nerves and excitement’

Editor's note: Elizabeth Williams has been leading MUSC's Angel Tree efforts for 14 years. This year will be her last time to serve as "chief elf." Volunteer Services' program coordinator Melissa Kubu will take over. Williams wrote the following piece to say thank you to everyone who has helped her make the holidays a little brighter for children throughout the Lowcountry.

BY LIZ WILLIAMS

williamsel@musc.edu

It's a foggy morning in December, and I am pacing Ehrhardt Street. My mind is racing with hundreds of details. Who is due to show up now, and who can

I expect later? Where should I place them? Who can I connect to make their experiences today even better? Who needs some extra attention this year and maybe a pep talk or a hug?

I'm high on caffeine, nerves and excitement when suddenly I hear it. It starts off with a low, melancholy rumble and builds into what can be best described as a wail. I peek around the corner of Ehrhardt onto Bee Street and see through the fog two pipers, dressed in kilts, playing on the corner. It's the bagpipers warming up. It is the beginning of a series of events that will build all day and stir emotions in everyone who comes out to witness it.

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Angel Tree, Holiday Tree Lighting kicks off the season



photo provided

MUSC Children's Hospital patient Laila Daniels, second from left, and mother India McRae join MUSC President Dr. David Cole, MUSC Health CEO Dr. Patrick Cawley and Salvation Army Capt. Jason Burns at the Nov. 8 annual Angel Tree Kickoff and Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at the MUSC Horseshoe. Laila served as the guest tree lighter, flipping the switch to light the decorated MUSC holiday tree and Horseshoe area. According to Cawley, the tree represents 100,000 babies — born since 1976 and the hope that they bring to the world. Since 2013, the tree and all holiday decorating around MUSC's campus have been completed by Interior Plantscapes.

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