

Crescent Hill's Presbyterian Women's Circle

Gena's Tree

Many of us at Crescent Hill remember Gena Chilton as the “candy lady.” As the children left the worship service to go to Joyful Noise, they first stopped to see Miss Gena who always had a red Life Saver candy to give to each one. Gena's love for children was not limited to Crescent Hill. During her lifetime as a teacher and school principal, she always provided for children. Shoes and peanut butter were often the “life savers” offered by Gena when she knew that a child was in need.

Gena passed on in late 2009 and to honor her memory, Crescent Hill's Presbyterian Women's Circle “planted” Gena's Tree in our gathering room off the narthex. On the top of the “tree” sits a large red Life Saver—it wouldn't be Gena's Tree without it.

During worship on June 13, 2010, Gena's Tree was presented by our Presbyterian Women's Circle, in memory of our dear Gena Chilton, and dedicated by our pastor, Jane Larsen-Wigger, to the glory and praise of God. Everyone was invited to help the “tree” bloom each season by providing for children-at-risk in the Louisville community.

During the lazy days of summer, Gena's Tree “blossomed” with back packs, school supplies, and uniforms for the children of United Crescent Hill Ministries. When we learned that the Bellewood Home for Children needed spiral notebooks, we were able to respond.

Beautiful hats, scarves, and gloves have been “blossoming” on Gena's Tree during these cold winter months. Many people have been crocheting or knitting warm items of clothing, while others have brought either hand-made, store-bought, or gently used items. The children of La Casita, an outreach program for the Hispanic/Latino community, have received these “blooms” as well as the children served by the Coalition for the Homeless.

Each season the offerings are dedicated during Sunday morning worship. On December 5th our chancel area was bedecked with a variety of colorful woolen hats and scarves that had “bloomed” on Gena's Tree.

We are touched by the tremendous response to this venture and look forward as other varieties of “blooms” flourish in future seasons.

Thanks be to God for gracing us with Gena's friendship, generosity and faith. As we remember her wonderful smile and the twinkle in her eye, we believe that she would be delighted to know that children's lives are being enriched through her memory.





