

December 2015

NORTH FAIRMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Christmas Giving Tree

Years ago, about 1979, there was a Thrift Shop at Presentation Church open two days a week offering new and gently used clothes and various household used clothes and various household goods at very reasonable prices.

Once a month, St. Ignatius women would come and bring coffee and sweets while playing Bingo. On one of these occasions a close friend of mine from St. Ignatius, Thelma Herbert, asked if I thought a Giving Tree could be started between St. Ignatius and St. Leo's. We asked our pastors and they agreed. The Christmas Giving Tree was born. Anna Mae Bruser created beautiful paper ornaments with children's names from the neighborhood. The ornaments returned as name toys on beautiful wonderful gifts donated by St. Ignatius families. The Giving Tree has grown at St. Ignatius Parish to include many more worthy causes.



It has also grown for St. Leo's because we now coordinate gifts among six Catholic parishes. St. Xavier High School students donate tons of food, as well as our own Pantry providing food. Children from infant to age 16 and many more seniors have a nice Christmas because of the generosity of hundreds of caring wonderful families in our Greater Cincinnati area.

For me, we would never forget the women who ran the Thrift Shops, and the ones who coordinated the Giving Tree program here at St. Leo's from ornament making to distribution, they are our unsung heroes this Christmas as they were in the past. Christmas Blessings, everyone!

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