



Cortland celebrates holidays with traditional event

Under the watchful eye of an angel (Floyd Crawford), the residents and staff of Cortland Acres celebrated the meaning of Christmas with readings and carols before lighting the star and tree.

The annual event, which also raises funds for special projects coordinated by the Friends of Cortland Acres, attracted more than 100 people on the afternoon of Dec. 2. With a Christmas tree in the front corner – complete with model train underneath – the event brought back memories of Christmas for all in attendance.

Called “Harps of Gold,” the 2012 program started with the singing of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” with Crawford taking his wings to the front of the activity room.

Betty Bonner read the poem “Harps of Gold” and Fran Bibeau read “Harps” before Clara Davis led a reading and the singing of “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.” Cindy Helmick and Linda Shupp honored the residents with “Memory Verse Awards” (list at bottom) before Nancy Zizunas and Mary Mullenax took turns reading the names of those who donated money for tree lights in honor or memory of friends and loved ones.

As Donna Markely read the names of the special star light honorees, Nancy Moore of the Friends of Cortland Acres turned lights on one at a time. Among the 36 star light honorees was Deacon the Therapy Dog, a longtime fixture at Cortland Acres who recently passed away.

Cortland Activities Director Marie Grafton, who served as master of ceremonies for the day, announced that the star light effort had raised more than

\$3,600 for the Friends of Cortland Acres, who will use the money for special projects to benefit Cortland Acres and its residents.

Vincent DiBacco had the honor of flipping the switch to light the huge tree in front of Cortland Acres to the tune of "Ring Those Bells." DiBacco, a member of the "Greatest Generation" and veteran of World War II, told those in attendance the honor was something he would always remember.

Champ Sedmock and Dot Jones drew door prize winners, then Sandy Kisamore gave the benediction before everyone enjoyed cookies and punch. Memory Verse Winners were Fran Bibeau, Beula Black, Kathryn Bucher, Thelma Butler, Mildred Carr, Eva Carter, Theresa Cook, Jerry Cummings, Mary Daff, Clara Davis, Goldie Kennard, Lois Lamont, Betty Lane, Mary Matlick, Leta Rader, Robert Snyder, Helen Wilson, Margaret Arnold, Sis Arnold, Betty Bonner, Freda Bright, Chico Chumpitaz, Clennis Halstead, Margaret Helmick, Bonnie Hissam, Leona Howell, Dottie Knicley, Ward Moats, Marlene Morgan, Sharlene Mullenax, Patsy Nestor, Jackie Roy, Ada Severe, Frances Snyder, Jesse Summerfield, Ethel Temple, Jean Waybright, Charlie Workman.