

Give the Gift of a Living Legacy

This week I would like to talk to you about planting trees in remembrance of loved ones and special occasions. Planting a tree is a great way to commemorate these events, as well as give back to our environment and pass something on to future generations.

The Clarksville Tree Board has developed a program entitled the Living Legacy Memorial Tree, which allows you to plant a living reminder to carry on throughout the years. The following is from an excerpt developed by Tree Board that denotes the benefits of trees and the program.

“A wise person was once asked what he would do if he knew that he had but one day left to live. His reply, ‘I would plant a tree.’

The importance that he attached to trees must be widely shared – for millions are planted every year in the US alone – to provide shade and ornament, to increase real estate values, to filter our air and soak up storm water, and to provide us with beauty. Sometimes we plant them symbolically as the wise person suggested, for trees outlive us, linking us with generations yet unborn.

Trees are symbols of human character traits we are taught to admire. Trees are seen as representing such virtues as wisdom and steadfastness. Their sheltering nature suggests parental care, and we even equate our heritage with the roots and branches of a tree. Trees represent a living link with the past – a bridge between generations.

Planting a tree is a meaningful way to celebrate the lives of people we love. The Living Legacy Tree program enables us to create a living memorial to honor a loved one, to celebrate a special achievement, or to commemorate a joyous event.”

The Living Legacy Tree program is a superb avenue for any family or organization wanting to solidify their memories in time. When a cumulative donation of \$250 is made to the program, a tree will be planted in honor of your loved one or special occasion, and will be marked with a special marker identifying the recipient of the gift, the type of tree and the date planted.

Each tree is guaranteed for 10 years, and the cost includes continued maintenance (fertilizing, pruning, mulching, etc.). A card will be mailed to the recipient of your gift at the time of your donation.

With the generous donations that have already been made by families and organizations, the Tree Board has been able to plant many Living Legacy trees in a specific area at Fairgrounds Park. This area is Tuttle’s Grove, in honor of Clarksville’s first city forester, Gary Tuttle. Tuttle’s Grove is located next to the playground area at Fairgrounds Park, and will provide many benefits to Clarksville’s families throughout the years. When these trees mature, they will provide shade for our children and children’s children, not only with their leaves, but also with all of the loving memories and joy that has been infused into the grove of Living Legacy trees that surround the area.

I am sure many of you have trees in your yard that were planted by your children. They come home from school on Arbor Day with a little tree and are full of excitement. You take the time to help them plant the tree, water it, and care for it throughout its lifetime, much like you have done for them. The tree grows to provide shade and beauty, and under its watch, lifetimes of memories are borne. This tree is now the most important in your yard and heart, and

joyful images come to mind by simply looking at it.

The Living Legacy Tree program allows you to pass these memories on to future generations, as well as providing them a place to make their own. What a wonderful, long-lasting gift for yourself, your loved ones, and the citizens of Clarksville.