

'Ceremony of light' memorializes loved ones

By Andrew Carr
Gazette Associate Editor

The Bedford Square was illuminated in white and blue lights during the fourth annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony on Monday.

The ceremony, held by the Home Nursing Agency Foundation, was held in remembrance of loved ones who have passed away and to honor their memories.

As the holidays approach, many times thoughts turn to those loved ones, family and friends, who will celebrate the joy of the seasons and those who are no longer here, but whose memory burns brightly in the hearts of those who remember them.

Pastor John Bennett, spiritual counselor with Home Nursing Agency Foundation, said the community joins in the wonder of light, with the gift of honor and remembrance.

"Our creator has endowed us with many very special gifts, but none so powerful as the gifts of love and remembrance," he said. "That's what lights of love is all about. People like you and we the staff of home nursing agency coming together to honor and remember our loved ones in a ceremony of light."

The tree was lit with white lights, representing the hospice program, and blue lights representing grief services for children, adults and families. Candle luminaries were also illuminated in memory of or in honor of family members, friends, loved ones, special teachers and mentors, doctors and nurses, colleagues, neighbors and anyone who has made a special impact in the lives of those in attendance.

Entertainment was provided by the Bedford High School Varsity Singers led



Gazette Photo/Andrew Carr
The Bedford High School Varsity Singers led by Caroline Leap, Bedford School District choral director, provided entertainment during the fourth annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony in the Square on Monday.

by Caroline Leap, Bedford School District choral director.

Bennett said the lights

represent the "light and love they brought into our lives and still continue to bring we keep that light

burning through our remembrances, through our honor of them."

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He said that each luminary represents, “a life that has touched this world, has touched this family, and has touched the family of Home Nursing Agency.”

“We illuminate those memories and honor together all of these loved ones,” he said.

Bennett prayed to, “bring to light all the wonderful remembrances of their loved ones that will warm them.”

Traci Weyant, registered nurse with the Home Nursing Agency Foundation, said trees were also lit at agency offices or community location in seven counties served by the agency.

The trees will remain lit through Jan. 8.

Julie Bowers, Registered Nurse with the Home Nursing Agency Foundation, invited every participants to “shine your own special light” in honor or memory of a loved one by making a donation to the Home Nursing Agency.

Donations of any amount can be given to honor or memorialize a loved one. All proceeds from Lights of Love



White and blue lights adorn a tree in the Bedford Square, which was lit in remembrance of loved ones passed during the fourth annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony in the Square on Monday.

will benefit the agency's hospice and grief services. Donations can be made by calling 1-855- GIVE-HNA

(448-3462) or visiting Home Nursing Agency's website at www.homenursingagency.co. Donors can write a per-

sonal dedication in memory or honor of their loved ones that will be featured on interactive trees on the agency's website. For more information about Lights of Love, contact Pam Seasoltz, director of development, at 946-5411, ext. 2565.

Lights of Love 2015 supports hospice, which meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families coping with a chronic or life-limiting illness; community bereavement support groups which offer free peer support to individuals and families after the loss of a loved one; the Hospice Bridge Program, serving hospice families with children in the home anticipating the death of a family member, providing grief support and linking families to bereavement services; and the Healing Patch, a children's grief program, which offers free peer support for children and families who have suffered the death of a loved one. Healing Patch services are offered through two centers and through in-school peer support groups for children



Luminaries lined the sidewalk in memory of loved ones who have passed, during the fourth annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony in the Square on Monday.

who may have difficulty attending a center but are in need of grief support.

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