

My Perfect Christmas Tree

My perfect Christmas tree this year was different from any other year. It wasn't covered in lights and decorations as in years past, but in actuality was 20 Christmas trees left green in their natural state. What made them so perfect was the spirit of giving these trees created and the joy of giving to others.

I was asked to help decorate the stage for Willamette Christian School's Christmas program. It was set in a Northwest forest which required getting as many Christmas trees on stage as we could get as a backdrop for the program. I thought we would have to use discarded artificial trees, but a local Christmas tree farm donated 20 trees which was a real blessing and a treat. It was a lot of work getting enough tree stands and mounting the trees, but it was worth the effort. The trees filled the auditorium with the fragrance and beauty of a real forest. Everyone who entered the room commented on how they loved the pine scent. I thought we should decorate them with lights, but after seeing them fill the stage with such natural splendor, I decided the only real decoration that was needed was the children themselves and their joyous smiles. The Christmas program was a hit and the children had an experience that they will remember the rest of their lives.

Afterwards, I was able to donate the trees to benefit those who would not have had a Christmas tree this year. This year my perfect Christmas tree was really a forest of real Christmas trees. I would never have dreamed how real Christmas trees could touch so many people's lives. Accented by real Christmas trees, the real message of Christmas – a heart of giving – will echo in everyone's hearts for all time!

By Ronan Baker