

Doris Reeves Commemorative Gift to Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Congo

Doris & Hap Reeves joined our church in 2018 and Doris immediately became an active member of Presbyterian Women. Sadly, Doris was not with us long before her death, but she left a legacy of generosity with a gift to our PW to be used in the work of Presbyterian mission in Africa. The PW Coordinating Team investigated opportunities, and with the help of the PC(USA) World Mission team, have prayerfully and thoughtfully chosen to support the work of Christi Boyd and her husband, Jeff, who are based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Christi works with partners in Congo, Madagascar, Niger, Rwanda and South Sudan seeking to remedy the marginalization of women and children, while Jeff has regional responsibilities.

Specifically, Doris's gift will be used in the Greater Kasai where Presbyterian mission and ministries were started by the first Presbyterian missionaries to Congo, William Sheppard and Samuel Lapsley. Specifically, the funds will go to the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Congo. For 20 years, the Presbyterian Church in Congo (CPC) has retrieved young girls from the markets and streets, cared for them halfway homes, traced relatives, and negotiated the return of the children to their families. Money was tight and the priority was food, education and health needs at the expense of reunification. They have recently restructured to continue meeting the needs of the children, but with basic needs ensured by local CPC congregations, freeing up resources to be used for finding relatives and more effective reunification. The Reeves gift will be used to support their efforts to train local CPC host families, raise awareness in the communities about children's rights, and to recognize and denounce abuse of children.

Hap Reeves and his daughter, Kathy, will be commissioned as Moderator for Presbyterian Women's 2021-2024 Board of Directors, sent the following response when they learned how Doris's generous gift would be used.

"Thank you for keeping us informed about the recipient of Mom's gift to the PW of First Presbyterian Church Auburn. I know Christi and Jeff Boyd well, and have complete confidence in their recommending that the Ministry for Vulnerable Children in Congo be the recipient of that gift. I have visited our partner Churches in the DRC several times and have witnessed first-hand the needs of the children there. We can trust that this gift will be used according to the wishes of the PWCT of your congregation."

The First Presbyterian PW was honored to ensure the Doris Reeves gift was used as she wished.