



Impact Statement

Daisy Tang, Grade 8

The Generational Guardian of Children, 2026

Colored pencil, marker, pen on paper, 19 x 14 inches

We Art Education, Garden City, NY

Unsung Hero: Pearl Kendrick

Unsung heroes are those who made significant contributions to society without intentionally seeking attention. One unsung hero that stood out and inspired me was Dr. Pearl Kendrick. She was an American scientist who helped develop the vaccine for whooping cough, also known as pertussis. I chose Dr. Pearl Kendrick because she saved countless children's lives with her discovery and developments, yet she is not recognized by many. What I admire about her is the quiet action and dedication to protecting others and creating a lasting change.

Dr. Kendrick lived through a time when whooping cough was a dangerous and risky disease, many children suffered and died. The illness spread through families fast and was causing devastation. Instead of watching the disaster unfold, Dr. Kendrick was determined to bring an end to the disease. She worked long hours in laboratories with experiments and data during the crisis. Her hard work eventually led to the development of one of the first and most effective vaccines against pertussis. As the vaccinations spread, deaths and illnesses also decreased. Children recovered and eventually the disease went extinct. Dr. Kendrick protected generations of children around the world with her vaccines. Through my research, I learned that progress is led to by hard work and perseverance, and that small discoveries can lead to a large lasting impact.

My artistic vision is to show how Dr. Kendrick saved lives. In my artwork, Dr. Kendrick is wearing a lab coat while holding a baby carefully in her hand, representing the vulnerable lives she brought back from the illness. There is a dark background and bright light emitted off of the baby representing hope. The baby is surrounded by harmful bacteria and large syringes. The bacteria represent danger and risk of the whooping cough. The syringes represent the vaccine and medical tools coming in to save the baby. There is a ring of flowers that wraps around the baby like the protection that Dr. Kendrick has brought to them in time of the crisis. The flowers represent life and growth showing how her work brought light and safety to the world. My goal is to visually prove how Dr. Kendrick's works protected and nurtured the lives of many.

Creating this artwork helped me understand the importance of dedication and perseverance. Dr. Kendrick's story tells people that even an ordinary person can create a huge contribution that changes the medical and scientific field over the world. Her work encourages us to value education and help others. I hope my artwork will also inspire others to learn about more unsung heroes in science and appreciate those who worked behind the scenes to keep us safe and bring us to where we are now. In the

future, I plan to share with community members and classmates to spread awareness about the importance of Dr. Kendrick's work and the vaccine she developed. I hope that the impacts that Dr. Kendrick and unsung heroes that were all quiet of the actions that were made to protect the world will be recognized widely and looked upon.