



SELECTIONS from your responses to WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS POLL...

I write holiday cards to my remote team members (all thirty this year!) each year and do not expect a reply. Last year, I was pleasantly surprised when I received two heartfelt cards in return. I keep them at my desk to this day.

I have been at the same company in various roles for over 33 years and had a total of 12 different leaders. Not once have I ever received a gift of thanks at Christmas UNTIL last year. My current Director sent a Christmas card w/a \$100 Visa gift card; but MORE importantly she hand wrote the nicest letter of gratitude for me personally. LOVED IT!

My past employer had a family friendly Christmas party that was awesome! Santa & Mrs. Claus were there and they provided a kid tent for kids under 12 to do activities, have kid-friendly food, face painting, book reading. No other company I've worked for included children during the holidays.

I was in a serious accident years ago and found myself away from work recovering for November and December. This meant we had 0 income going into Christmas with 6, 5 and 2 year olds waiting for Santa to bring those gifts. A co-worker coordinated adopting my family masking a surprise Santa delivery 3 days before Christmas with gifts food and all.

We went caroling on the trolley and took cookies to assisted living communities and then went to dinner. It snowed and it was amazing.

Serving food with my team at the homeless shelter.

During the first year at my current employer, I was a single mom, struggling financially. My co-workers pooled together and bought Christmas for my 2 daughters. I was blown away by their generosity! I've been here 17 years and every year, I remember their generosity and try to repay it to someone else.

We used to have a large Christmas party with a room for the younger children and bowling for the older ones. It was nice for parents not to have to worry about what to do with their children, or have to pay for childcare, during the party. My children looked forward to it every year.

Giving Tree for less fortunate Children or Seniors. A tree is set-up in the office with a name and a one or two item wish list that belongs to that child or senior. You take the name off the tree, and then go out and purchase the item and wrap it with their name on it and place it back under the tree. They get those presents to open at Xmas!

Every year my team and I enjoy some time playing games and talking, just having fun together while eating good food (we do a potluck).

Coordinating the group to donate to organizations that provide livestock or water or educational supplies, etc. to other countries. Good conversations based on that collection and decision of where / what to support.

Our location adopts elderly residents from the local Council on Aging. We purchase the items from the wish list of the residents, and then we get together and wrap them while listening to Christmas music.

In a previous job, my co-workers and boss went in together and bought Christmas gifts for my two young boys when their father was deployed to Iraq. It was the greatest, most humbling moment in my life. It opened my eyes to how much I really did matter to those around me.

Staff coming together to provide gifts to a child on the Angel Tree...we had so many people wanting to give, that we were able to help more children on the tree.

My old team would meet for a lavish lunch on a weekday. Then, our director would let us go home or shopping for the rest of the day. It was nice to have time to shop for family without taking time away from family. And also nice to eat with coworkers knowing no one had to rush home or back to work.

Writing a personalized song for co-workers and/or patients to celebrate who they are and what they mean to all of us. (I work in a hospital.) Serenading patients and their families in their rooms with carols.

We have a building-wide Christmas party. It involves food, games, and visiting with others. None of it is mandatory so if we don't feel like participating we don't have to. But it is nice to be able to visit with others in the building we may not normally get to see very often.

Our boss would take us out for a 4hr lunch to a nice restaurant, where we would do our gift exchange. Then it was free time. We could go shopping, watch a movie, get our nails done, etc. Then we would meet back at the restaurant parking, and many times, she would surprise us with the rest of the day off. I miss her!

I helped a co-worker coordinate a toy drive for under privileged Indian children in the area. We had a fantastic result and it took 2 trucks to take all the toys over to Indian Center for the kids. The rallying together and generosity of our co-workers was a beautiful thing!!

Getting the entire week off between Christmas and New Year's off without using vacation time.

The yearly cookie platter from a colleagues' wife.

One year, a coworker passed away during the year and we all raised money at Christmas to give to his widow and children.

Being able to take off early to go home for Christmas as this was my first Christmas back home in 2 years. I was home sick and never thought I would get the chance to go back home. Our director and president gave full time staff the option to leave early and she sent me home early. One of the best things to happen in some time.