



7 Ideas for Giving Back this Holiday Season

1. **Clean Out the Toy Box** The holidays are a great time for kids to donate some of the games, clothing or other things they own – and clean out some clutter while you're at it. Even preschoolers can pick a few lightly-used toys to donate to kids who don't have any. As an alternative, consider shopping for a new toy and make a donation to the Toys for Tots program.
2. **Donate to a Food Bank** Even younger children enjoy picking out food items at the grocery store. Take your kids on a special shopping trip to pick up their favorite nonperishable goods for a local ministry or food bank. They're always in need of extra food around the holidays.
3. **Create 'Sock Rolls'** for those in need. Socks are one of the number one requested items for the homeless. A pair of socks rolled with snack or a toothbrush and toothpaste, wrapped up with a bow and a meaningful note from your child can mean the world to those living on the streets or in a shelter.
4. **Adopt a Family** Many local organizations and religious groups can help you sponsor a family in your area to shop for over the holiday season. Use some of your family's designated holiday money to buy or make gifts for another family in need. Get the kids involved.
5. **Visit a Nursing Home** As a family – or with a group of your kids' friends – visit a local nursing home. Call ahead to schedule your visit. Take cards and decorations to brighten up nursing home rooms, or sing a few carols for the residents.
6. **Make Cards or Write Letters** to a local homeless shelter, a local soup kitchen, Meals on Wheels recipients, senior citizens of assisted living facilities or a member of our military.
7. **Tackle a Bigger Cause** Older kids are especially sensitive to the world's injustices. Talk with your kids about problems – whether local or worldwide – that they're passionate about. Then, do some research about the issue to find practical ways to help. Assist your kids in sponsoring a bigger fundraising event to help tackle this issue.

Kindness Ideas:

Leave a note of cheer on someone's windshield. - Give an unexpected generous tip to make someone's day.
Run an errand for someone - Smile at a stranger - Give a genuine compliment every day. -
Hold the door for someone - Write a note or email of appreciation to someone who has impacted your life.

The Giving Tree volunteers are always ready to help you organize and plan.

Contact us at info@givingtreefamilies.org