

Title: 12 Ways to Give Back During the Holidays

We're all familiar with the classic carol, *The 12 Days of Christmas*.

*On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
A Partridge in a Pear Tree*

While most people love to receive gifts, the act of giving truly represents what this season is all about. Random acts of kindness don't need to be grand in gesture or even cost money. In fact, the more personal in nature, the more heartfelt and appreciated they are to the recipient.

Since it's officially Dec. 1, let's kick off the holidays with 12 ways to give back in your neighborhood, your community, or even to a complete stranger. Whether you follow these ideas exactly, tweak them, or create your own, the point is to brighten someone's day during this season.

12 Days of Giving Ideas

- Dec. 1: Give money or food to a homeless person.
- Dec. 2: Shovel snow or help landscape someone's yard.
- Dec. 3: Leave a generous tip for a waiter/waitress.
- Dec. 4: Give up your spot in line.
- Dec. 5: Volunteer at a soup kitchen or shelter.
- Dec. 6: Give a gift card to someone who does something AWESOME!
- Dec. 7: Carol and visit with the elderly at a nursing home.
- Dec. 8: Write a handwritten letter to a soldier.
- Dec. 9: Buy something for the person in line behind you (Ex: coffee, gas, toll, movie ticket, etc.).
- Dec. 10: Deliver cookies to your local fire/police station.
- Dec. 11: Donate blood and give the gift of life.
- Dec. 12: Sponsor a child/donate to your favorite charity. (Hint: Jeunesse Kids is always a good choice!)

This holiday season, we challenge you to give a helping hand to those who are in obvious need or make the day of a random stranger. You never know

... your generosity just might inspire further acts of kindness to be shared all season long!

Share your “12 Days of Giving” experience on social media with #giveback2017.