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Waste-free holiday: Give the gift of time, experience or service

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, Americans generate 25 percent more waste than at any other time of year — an additional 1 million tons per week for six weeks. According to the National Environmental Education Foundation, Americans annually discard an estimated:

- \$11 billion worth of packing material;
- And 15 million used Christmas trees.

According to the National Retail Federation, holiday shoppers plan to spend an average of \$1,007 on gifts, décor, greeting cards and other items this year. In contrast, many adults report that they would prefer less emphasis on the commercial aspects of the holidays and more emphasis on time spent with loved ones.

Why not prevent waste, reduce personal stress and save money by focusing on giving your time, an experience or a service to those you love? Here are some ways recommended by the Lane County Master Recycler Program and its Waste-Free Holidays Campaign.

ily history and precious memories. Share the recording with family members and start a tradition of sharing memories from generation to generation.

Visit www.lanecounty.org/wastefreeholidays and look for the wreath to find instructions and a template for sewing simple bean bags from scrap materials. We have included a free printable How to Juggle instruction booklet. Additional DIY gift ideas can be found on the website, including paper flowers and scented bath products.

Gift of Service

Are you handy? Can you sew? Write a good resume? For those who aren't or can't, the gift of mending clothes, repairing a leaky faucet or updating a resume would be welcomed and appreciated.

Several free online templates exist for making your own gift coupons or you can free-style it using any number of reused materials. Some coupon ideas for your services:

- Candlelit dinner
- Child care
- Lessons in baking, a hobby or craft
- Trip to the nearest state or national park
- Leaf raking
- Dog walking
- Respite elder care
- Home cooking

Children love a day-off from chores or extended bedtime coupons — or a maybe a one-time, super-duper room cleaning by a grown-up.

Some examples of services you can purchase and give include:

- Computer tune-up or diagnosis
- Hair cut or trip to a spa
- Housekeeping
- Language, music or sports lessons
- Membership to a museum or aquarium
- Newspaper or movie subscription
- Oil change or tune up
- Passes to a museum or special exhibit in or around your area
- Service memberships such as AAA
- Yard service

- Eugene Parks and Recreation activities and camps
- MECCA art classes and crafty parties
- Science Factory or Splash!
- Ski & snowboarding passes
- Dining gift certificates

GIFT OF SERVICE

Gift of Experience

Give a gift that both children and adults will remember long after the holiday season — the gift of an event, trip or other activity. Tickets to a college or professional ball game, a play, a concert or a movie are unforgettable.

"Each year, I take my granddaughter to see 'The Nutcracker' and, given a choice, she continues to value that experience over receiving a wrapped gift from me," said Kelly Bell, Lane County Master Recycler coordinator.

GIFT OF EXPERIENCE

Gift of Time

Time spent preparing for the holidays will be remembered as fondly as the holiday celebration itself. You can spend quality time with loved ones while making gifts. Share the work, the expense and the fun with friends and neighbors.

Another idea is to record an "interview" with a grandparent or other family elder to capture fam-

GIFT OF TIME

Other ideas include:

- Art or cooking classes
- Furniture refinishing class
- Music and vocal lessons

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\$30,000

\$21,635

*Only five days left!
Please help us reach goal!*

DEAR FRIENDS IN WESTERN LANE COUNTY,

We have just topped \$21,500 in our local Red Kettle Campaign. This is a wonderful opportunity to help others locally this Christmas! Our Goal is \$30,000 - please help! Join us as volunteers or donors! It's both fun and rewarding!

Western Lane County has its own separate account with The Salvation Army and **90% of all money raised stays in FLORENCE / MAPLETON COMMUNITY.**

You can help in two ways:

- 1) Mail a check to our P.O. Box 1041 in Florence or make your kettle donation **BEFORE DECEMBER 24TH.**
- 2) Call Sam Spayd, 541-991-6139 and sign up to Ring the Bell.

**WILL YOU PLEASE HELP US OBTAIN OUR GOAL?
"WE HAVE JUST 5 (FIVE) DAYS LEFT"**

Please send your generous donation today to:
THE SALVATION ARMY
P.O. Box 1041, Florence, OR 97439

**Thank You
Florence Area Volunteers**

LIKE US ON **facebook** *The Salvation Army of Western Lane County*

Your Gift Makes A Difference!

Volunteer for the local Red Kettle Campaign
Call Sam Spayd
541-991-6139

Sam Spayd, 2018 Volunteer Kettle Coordinator

The best kept secret in Florence, also has the best view of the Bay and Siuslaw River in town.

**Located in the Best Western Pier Point Inn
85625 Highway 101, Florence • 541-997-7191**

**We invite you to join us
Sunday, Dec. 23rd.
Services at 9:00am and 10:45am**

Corner of 10th & Maple St. • 541-997-3533
www.florencecrossroad.org
email: office@florencecrossroadag.org

Lane County Master Recyclers invite community members to celebrate the season of giving by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste that is typically generated at the holidays.

The Waste-Free Holidays Campaign highlights several fun, low-cost and simple waste prevention strategies families can use from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day — or any time of year.

Visit www.lanecounty.org/wastefreeholidays to view tips and resources to help create a truly enjoyable season. New items are added throughout the season, so check back periodically for inspiration.

DONATE NOW!

Maximize your donation by donating to Cars for a Cause by Dec. 31st. We accept cars, trucks, RVs, boats & motorcycles **CALL NOW!**

- Helps those in need in Lane County
- Charitable donation
- We do all the paperwork

St. Vincent de Paul
2315 Hwy. 101 • Florence • 541-997-8460

\$30,000

Your Gift Makes A Difference!

\$21,635

Please send your generous donation today to:
The Salvation Army - WLC
P.O. Box 1041
Florence, OR 97439

Volunteer for the local Red Kettle Campaign

Call Sam Spayd
541-991-6139

Ad Sponsored by
Bill & Becky Olson

Christmas Gift List

Toys • Books
Clothing
Houseware
Furniture
Gift Certificates

St. Vincent DePaul's
2315 Hwy 101 541-997-8460
Open Daily

Holiday

We are your gift giving headquarters

**PeaceHealth
Peace Harbor Volunteers
Gift Shop**

Open
Monday - Friday 10am-4pm

541-997-8412

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Volunteers

18th ANNUAL 'TREE OF GIVING'

Stop by for a coffee or hot chocolate and cookies. Select an ornament from the tree representing gift requests for specific necessities by a high school student in our community.

Return gifts to us by Dec. 19, to be distributed before Christmas break. **TODAY**

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