

Parents Page



NOVEMBER 2015

THE SEASON OF GIVING

The holidays are a perfect time to reflect on all that we have and to show how grateful we are by helping others. Even if you personally don't have much, it's great to teach your kids that there are always ways in which your family, church or a group you belong to can help others. It is amazing how many opportunities exist to teach your children how to give to others. Below are some ideas for ways kids can give back during the holiday season in your community.

1. **There are many physical volunteer opportunities** for older kids, like raking leaves, shoveling snow, chopping or stacking wood for an elderly neighbor.
2. **Serving food at the Senior Citizen Center.** For information call Grant County Senior Programs 575-2949. Prairie City Senior Center 820-4100 or Monument Senior Center 934-2700.
3. **Sorting food and helping at a local food bank.** Local Food Bank information:

- Grant County Food Bank 575-0299
- United Methodist Church 575-1326
- Prairie Baptist Church Food Bank 820-3696
- Monument Food Pantry 421-3248

4. **Put out the word via e-mail, Facebook, newspaper, flier or radio that you're having a food drive.** Let people know where they can drop things off or when you will be in their neighborhood to pick up food items. Then make arrangements with the food bank when you will take all of it to drop off. Even if you have nothing to give yourself, the fact that your family or group coordinated the effort is a big help. Have the kids help accept and pack up items in boxes and go with you to take the donations.



5. **Head to a nursing home, assisted living, or adult foster care facility with your school or church singing group to perform.** Enjoy a nice visit with the residents, and be sure to take some homemade cards. Call ahead to see what they could accept in the way of a snack or gift. Blue Mt. Nursing Home 820-3341, Valley View Assisted Living & Memory Care 575-3533.

6. **Take another family or elderly friend a full meal.** If you can't handle the time or money commitment right now, join with some other families to make it happen.
7. **Make family/friends or neighbors goodies and deliver them over the holidays.**
8. **Sponsor a child from the Tree of Giving.** Purchase a new toy, clothes or other item from the tags located at the Out Post Restaurant or Chester's Thriftway, The trees and tags will become available November 20, 2015 and gifts must be returned to the trees by December 14. In Prairie City the tags are available at the City Hall. Call the Grant County Extension Service for more information 575-1911 or Families First 575-1006.
9. Donate a Gift Basket or plan to attend the annual Carrie Young Memorial fundraiser. This year's event will be held Friday, December 4, 2015 at the John Day Elks Club, starting at 5:30pm with a donation only spaghetti dinner and silent auction. All proceeds purchase gifts for residence in our local care facilities and benefit seniors with other needs.

10. Donate an item, gift basket, wreath or decorated tree for the Festival of Trees sponsored by Grant County 4-H. All proceeds help with local giving; purchasing gifts for Teens from the Tree of Giving and filling Christmas wishes from the tags which are not taken from the Tree of Giving by the deadline. This year's event along with the Festival of Children will be held December 5 at the Canyon City Community Hall.



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