

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." — Mother Teresa



Indiana SADD - December - January

BE A BLESSING PROJECT

Giving Time and Other Resources

Fun ideas for giving back to your community!

Can Food Drive - Host a local can food drive to help provide for local food pantries. One possibility to increase participation is to ask for two non-perishable food items as an entrance fee to an event.

Holiday Fair - Select a Saturday in December where all the extra-curricular groups/clubs from your school come together to offer a Holiday Fair for elementary students and their families. Each group hosts a booth that provides a great experience for those attending. Some booth ideas: *crafts, face painting, making a snack, ornament making, pictures with Santa, goodie bags, etc.*

HOMEtown Pride - Identify a family who is in need, but not necessarily in financial need. Perhaps dad is disabled or mother is away serving in the military. Offer to help prepare the house for winter, sealing up drafty windows, painting a room, or even getting Christmas decorations down from the attic. Find something that the family could not do without help from others.

Caroling - Who wouldn't want to hear your SADD chapter bring holiday cheer to the community?

Adopt a Family - Work with a school or community organization to select a family that is truly in need this year, and adopt them. Then, go shopping! Some have hosted parties for the families, while others *Shop with a Cop* - where an officer acts as a chauffeur for the evening, allowing the family to do the shopping themselves.

Operation Christmas Child/Toys for Tots - Look to see what projects are already a part of your community. Partner with host organizations to more effectively serve your community and/or world.

Gift Baskets - Make gift baskets for males and females of different ages. Include some essentials (toothpaste, body wash, socks, etc.) Add some additional items that you would want as a gift. Distribute them to students who may not get something otherwise.

Coat Drive - Collect coats for those in need. Make sure to have a plan as to how you will distribute the coats prior to your collection date(s). One possibility is to donate the coats to a domestic violence shelter.

Mittens/Hat Tree - Set a Christmas tree up in your school foyer or cafeteria. Then, ask your peers to decorate the tree with new gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. After the tree has been filled, donate the items to a local organization to distribute them (*perhaps a WIC office or other service organization*).

No-Sew Blankets - Heat is expensive, which makes blankets a very important item to have during the winter months. Go purchase yards of fleece, and make no-sew, knot blankets for children in the community. Make sure to pick patterns appealing to girls and boys. Help keep them warm *and* provide a little extra cheer.

Soup Kitchen - Volunteer as a SADD chapter at a local soup kitchen. Or, if you aren't near a soup kitchen or homeless shelter organize a free community meal (*be sure to actively promote the meal to your community*).

Nursing Homes - Think of ways you could bless those who are in nursing homes this winter. Take a trip to read to them, organize a talent show, or hold a holiday dance! Even visiting with cookies is a great way to show you care.

Simple Act of Kindness - Does your community already do some really great outreach during the holidays? Well, join in! Provide something simple like hot chocolate to volunteers or others in attendance.

A Helping Hand - Make plans to send a group text to your SADD members when the first big snow falls. Then, everyone go out and shovel snow, for the elderly, for individuals, for families, for businesses for anyone in your community!

The Indiana SADD Student Leadership Council is highlighting December and January as a time for SADD chapters across Indiana to give back to their community.

Help your community to have an even better holiday season this by giving of your time and/or resources.