

Celebrate in December by Volunteering or Giving

December has arrived in St. Joseph. Whatever the weather brings, we move from a time of giving thanks into a time for giving to others.

To help during this season of giving, holiday-specific volunteer and giving opportunities through local non-profits are available for all to access once again through a holiday volunteer and giving guide compiled by United Way Volunteer Center, a central resource that connects the community through volunteerism. Here are just a few ways you may give or volunteer for the good of someone who lives in our community this season:

Dec. 8—Help set up for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater St. Joseph Christmas Party. 10 a.m.-noon. 671-4090.

Dec. 8—Help during the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater St. Joseph Christmas Party by serving punch or cake, taking photos, helping with games and/or cleanup. 5-10 p.m. 671-4090.

Dec. 12—Help set up and/or take down YWCA Christmas party for Healthy Teen Parents/Healthy Babies at McCarthy Baptist Church, 2710 South Belt. Help decorate and set up tables and chairs, 2-3 p.m. and/or help clean up after the party, 6-7 p.m. 232-4481.

By Dec. 14—Drop off unwrapped Christmas gifts and coats at The St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities Department Parks Administration Office, 1920 Grand Avenue. Donations will be given to the AFL-CIO Community Services Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program and the YWCA. 271-5501.

Dec. 15—Set up and organize gift room for people

registered for AFL-CIO Community Services Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program who do not get adopted by someone in the community. Volunteers sign up for shifts, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. 364-1131.

Dec. 17—Set up YWCA Christmas store for shelter residents, 1-4 p.m. 232-4481.

By Dec. 17—Donate unwrapped gifts for women to choose from and give to their children, both girls and boys from ages birth to 18, on Christmas morning while staying in the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter. 232-4481.

Dec. 18—Help set up Salvation Army Toy Shop and prepare food bags. Volunteers sign up for shifts, 9 a.m. until finished. 232-5824.

By Dec. 18—Donate items for family Salvation Army Toy Shop: unwrapped, new toys, gifts for infants, gifts for teens or warm clothing of all sizes. 232-5824.

By Dec. 18—Donate unwrapped gifts for people who will wake up in The Salvation Army Shelter on Christmas morning. Suggested items include hats, gloves, cologne, perfume, lotions or other hygiene products. 232-5824.

Dec. 18-Dec. 21—Assist shelter residents with shopping in the YWCA Christmas Store for their children and wrapping items for Christmas. Volunteers sign up for shifts, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 232-4481.

Dec. 18-Dec. 23—Assist in gift room with AFL-CIO Community Services Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program. Help individuals who did not get adopted by someone in the community as they select items for their families. Also help organize and restock the room. Volunteers sign up for shifts, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 364-1131.

By Dec. 20—Donate diapers of any size/brand and baby wipe refill packages to Catholic Charities to distribute to families who struggle to provide diapers and wipes their babies need. No Christmas wrapping, please. 232-2885, ext. 239.

Dec. 21—Be a Salvation Army Personal Toy Shopper and help parents select donated toys to give to their children for Christmas.

Volunteers sign up for shifts, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 232-5824.

Dec. 22—Take down YWCA Christmas store for shelter residents, 1-4 p.m. 232-4481.

By Dec. 23—Donate a new, unwrapped item as a gift for someone registered for AFL-CIO Community Services Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program who did not get adopted by someone in the community. Note: items are needed for people of all ages, especially for teens. 364-1131.

By Dec. 23—Donate unwrapped hygiene products to be available in the Emergency Resource Room at Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph to help families with supplies not usually covered by other assistance programs. 233-8281.

Through Dec. 24—Ring the bell and accept donations for The Salvation Army's 2017 Red Kettle Campaign at a St. Joseph bell-ringing site. Volunteers sign up for shifts for particular days, times and locations. 232-5824.

Throughout Dec.—Fill in as a temporary driver in your own vehicle for InterServ's Mobile Meals as relief to regular volunteers who may be out of town during the season. Volunteers need to arrive to pick up the prepared meals at 10 a.m. and allow approximately two hours for meal delivery to seniors and people with disabilities who are homebound. 232-7779 ext. 235.

Throughout Dec.—Prepare and serve meals to men at St. Joseph's Haven. Note: There are usually 30 men with up to 25 more on nights when the Cold Weather Shelter is open. 4-6 p.m. 390-8884.



Stay on top of these and other volunteer and giving opportunities related to the holidays as they become available in our community throughout December at stjosephunitedway.org.



You are invited to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER through United Way to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph supports 17 Partner Agencies and operates seven Initiatives.

(816) 364-2381
stjosephunitedway.org

7 United Way Initiatives

- FamilyWize® Prescription Assistance
- Financial Stability
- Leadership St. Joseph
- Profit In Education®
- Success By 6®
- Unmet Needs Committee
- Volunteer Center

17 Partner Agencies

Bartlett Center	Northwest Missouri Community Services
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America
Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.	St. Joseph Safety & Health Council
The CENTER, a Samaritan Center	The Salvation Army
Children's Mercy	Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc.
Community Missions (CMC)	United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri
Family Guidance Center for Behavioral Healthcare	YMCA
InterServ	YWCA
Legal Aid of Western Missouri	