

TIP SHEET: CHRISTMAS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

As the Christmas season approaches, you may be wondering if there are things you can do to bring a smile to a stranger's face; something your small group or church family can do that would capture and share the love and joy of the season; something that would make a real difference in someone's life. The reality is, you don't have to look too far for something to do. There are people in your town who are in desperate need of help. Here are some ideas of how your family, Sunday school class, or congregation can make a real difference in your community this Christmas and beyond:

- Talk to the faculty/staff of a local school about starting a mentoring or reading program
- Make contributions to local schools of backpack snacks to help with weekend hunger
- Host a shopping experience (with affordable prices or ticket system) in your facility with new toys, clothes, etc. for families in your community
- Pay the power bills for a low-income apartment complex
- Work with the staff at a local nursing/retirement home to provide Christmas baskets for residents, filled with food, personal hygiene products, etc.
- Adopt a local family and provide them Christmas gifts, new clothes, shoes, household items
- Host a community luncheon in your facility for those who need a hot meal and a warm place to spend an afternoon

These are just a few ideas of how to serve your local community this Christmas season. We hope this list sparks your imagination as you spread God's love in your community this holiday season and beyond!

