



Celebrate 12 Days of Caring Alternative Holiday Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

The holidays are one of the most popular times of year to volunteer and even though the needs of the community are great, many of the projects listed with Hands On fill up quickly. Below are some other ways you can give back on your own or with friends, family, and co-workers during the holidays or any time throughout the year.

- 1. Deck the Halls** - Offer to decorate an assisted living home, group home or nursing/rehabilitation center in your neighborhood for the holidays. Providing festive entertainment, like a tree-trimming party or Christmas carol sing-along is sure to brighten their season.
- 2. Make Treats for Non Profit Agencies** - Contact your favorite nonprofit organization that provides a much needed service and make snacks, a lunchtime meal, or a batch of your signature holiday sweet-treats for the employees of that organization. [View a list of Hands On partner agencies.](#)
- 3. Grant a Wish** - Find a "Wish Tree" or "Angel Tree" and purchase a gift for someone less fortunate or ask a nonprofit agency that serves your favorite cause for a "wish list". Take a look at the list and purchase items that will support the services they provide year-round. [View holiday donation opportunities listed with Hands On.](#)
- 4. Give an Alternative Gift** - Make a special donation of money or supplies to a local organization in honor of a friend or family member. Give that person a card describing the organization and the donation made in their name! A great way to do this is through the [Loaves and Fishes Alternative Gift Market.](#) Or support [Hands On Asheville-Buncombe](#) so that we can continue to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities and vital support to our community all year long.
- 5. Adopt a Service Person** - Help make being away from home a little easier by sending a holiday greeting card to our armed service men and women or adopt a local veteran or family who has a loved one overseas in the military. Visit one of these websites for ideas: www.ourmilitary.mil, www.adoptaplatoon.org, www.forgottensoldiers.org.
- 6. Share the Warmth** - Quilt a blanket, knit a hat & scarf, or create a draft-stopper to help keep a family warm during the winter season. Participate in one of Hands On's [portable projects](#) that share the warmth. Not so crafty? Locate an organization that needs coats and shoes this winter and then start collecting! Don't forget the hats and gloves!
- 7. Donate** - Support your favorite non-profit financially. There are many places where you can donate that really need your help. Not sure how to make the biggest impact? Visit www.unitedwayabc.org to find out how your dollars can make lasting change for families who live in Buncombe County.
- 8. Shop** - Next time you're out shopping, buy extra canned goods and holiday meal items to donate to an area shelter or [food banks](#). Don't forget pet food & supplies for our local animal support services!
- 9. Support Utility Payment Assistance** - There is a great need during the winter months for utility payment assistance so that families and individuals can keep their heat and lights on. Donate financially to a local agency that assists those with utility payment needs. For more information, call United Way's 2-1-1.
- 10. Think Green** - Take a moment to consider your impact on the environment. Carpool with someone on your way to work or school, be sure to recycle, and go out of your way to pick up litter around you. [Explore ongoing opportunities with local agencies that keep our community clean & green!](#)
- 11. Brighten Someone's Day** - With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind. Take a moment to make someone's day better by holding the door open, feeding a parking meter for a stranger, thanking the store clerk for their help, saying hello to a neighbor. Small gestures can go a long way to making the season better for everyone.
- 12. Commit to Volunteer All Year Long** - While it is great to volunteer during the holidays, your help is needed all year long. Make a commitment to volunteer at least four more times in the New Year. The agency you are working with will be grateful, and you will know that you have truly made an impact. [Sign up for the monthly Hands On volunteer newsletter](#) to stay connected year-round.

