MINISTRY MINUTE

NOVEMBER 2026

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Salvation Army is well known for its Christian Service, especially at Christmas time. This Christmas season let's provide opportunities for our young people to reach out in "Christmas" service to the community around them. The following are just a few ideas to get you thinking and planning:



1. **Design a Christmas Card Contest** – Invite all your young people no matter how young or old to design a Nativity Christmas card. Divide the participants' cards into age categories and choose one winner from each age grouping. Then scan the drawings and use them to create Christmas cards that can be given out in Nursing Homes, Christmas Hampers and Sunshine Bags.

2. **Hamper Packing** – Volunteer your class or youth group to help sort food that comes in through the Christmas food drive. Giving up a few hours of their time to help sort will make a huge contribution to the food drive. Be sure to invite the young people to participate as well on the day or evening when the Family Services or Food Bank packs all of the Christmas hampers. An evening of service will give your kids an opportunity to see what happens to all the foods that are collected in schools and shopping centres. If you do not operate a food drive at your corps, volunteer with the local community food bank.

3. **Christmas Concert** – Recruit young people to travel with you to a nearby nursing home. Host a short program with the residents. Concert items can include: carol sing, solos, and instrumental solos such as piano, brass or woodwind instruments for which the young people take lessons. Be sure to include a simple presentation of the Christmas story.

4. **Toy Shop Child Care Service** – Organize your older young people to put together crafts and activities that children can use while their parents are "shopping" (collecting their toys) at The Salvation Army's Toy Shop. Your young people can also lead the children in these crafts and activities while the parents are busy "shopping".

5. **Take a Kettle Shift** – Organize your class or a small group of children to cover a Kettle shift together. Bring along Christmas song sheets and spend your time on the kettle singing Christmas carols. You'll be surprised at how well their singing will be appreciated.

6. **Toy Drive Challenge** – Encourage your class or youth group to get involved in a Toy Drive. Help them to know how to organize a toy drive at their school or challenge them to use their own money to purchase toys to donate to the local toy drive. Encourage them to especially think about older children or teens that are often overlooked. Consider as well, inviting your young people to help sort toys into age groups at your toy warehouse.

7. **Christmas Baking Visitation** – Spend an evening doing some Christmas baking with your young people, then package it up and deliver it to shut-ins. Spend some time with them singing carols and sharing the Christmas story.