



tips for youth workers

OCTOBER 2017

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Christmas at The Salvation Army is a time to reach out and make a difference in our communities. This Christmas let's intentionally reach out and share the Christmas story with our communities. The following are some ideas/resources that you might like to try.

1. **Breakfast with Santa** – invite families to come into your ministry unit for a breakfast together. At the event include craft stations, face painting, cookie decorating, Christmas photo booth, the telling of the Christmas Story and provide a photo op with Santa. (see www.ministryhelps.ca for a detailed description)
2. **Drop and Shop** – invite parents to drop their kids off at your ministry unit. While the parents are shopping provide a rotation of activities for the kids with Christmas-themed games, crafts, photo booth, and cookie decorating. End the time together when the parents are due back with a carol sing and the telling of the Christmas Story. (See www.ministryhelps.ca for a detailed description.
3. **Christmas Programs** – there are a wide variety of Christmas programs, you can choose a program based on the theme or the style of program. You can have programs that require minimal preparation or you can spend a few weeks leading up to your event preparing. Be sure to visit www.childrens-ministry-deals.com and check out their varied selection of programs.
4. **Christmas Curriculum** – If you are looking to spend a few weeks dedicating your lesson time to teaching the Christmas Story be sure to visit www.childrens-ministry-deals.com to find a modular curriculum to use.
5. **Advent Resources** – Children's advent calendars and readings for Sunday worship are available through www.ministryhelps.ca just search for "advent" or "Christmas". If you have any advent ideas you'd like to share pass them along to program_helps@can.salvationarmy.org.
6. **Christmas Outreach Events** – Group Publishing has a couple of packages available that you can use to create an interactive and dramatic approach to telling the Christmas Story to families in your community. Titles include: "Keepsake Christmas: Making Memories at the Manger" and "A Night in Bethlehem: Jesus Came to Save us". You can find these resources at www.group.com to find out more or contact Supplies and Purchasing at orderdesk@can.salvationarmy.org to order your kit.
7. **Pioneer Clubs Christmas Resources** – www.PioneerClubs.org has resources and event ideas available to help you plan Pioneer Club Christmas events for children. Visit their website and search "Christmas".