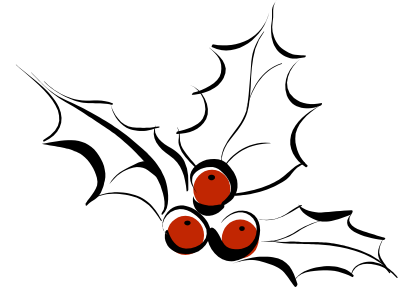


## Ways to Get Involved This Holiday Season!



- Host a Food Drive
- Host a Toy Drive
- Adopt a Family in Need
- Volunteer with a community organization instead of hosting a holiday party
- Include community organizations as a component of your holiday party
- Host a unique fundraiser
- Purchase holiday cards, gifts, and decorations that support community organizations
- Be friendly to the environment

*In the spirit of the holidays, EF has developed a list of creative ways to get involved this season. This list provides ideas and organizations, but is by no means comprehensive.*

### **Host holiday drives, such as food and toy drives, or adopt a family.**

- Food drives:
  - [Second Harvest Food Bank](#) (Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties)
  - [Samaritan House](#) (San Mateo County)
  - [San Francisco Food Bank](#) (San Francisco)
  - [Marin Food Bank](#) (Marin County)
  - [Alameda Food Bank](#) (East Bay)
  - [Second Harvest](#) (Toronto, ON)
  - [Feeding America](#) (Find your local food bank – US)
- Toy drives:
  - [Family Giving Tree](#) (Bay Area)
  - [Toys for Tots](#) (Find a location near you – US)
  - [Toronto Fire Fighters Toy Drive](#) (Toronto, ON)
  - [The Salvation Army Canada Toy Drive](#) (Find a location near you – Canada)
- Adopt a family for the holidays.
  - [Samaritan House](#) (San Mateo County)
  - [Shelter Network](#) (San Mateo County)
  - [Raphael House](#) (San Francisco)
  - [Hamilton Family Center](#) (San Francisco)
  - [Bill Wilson Center](#) (Santa Clara County)
- And HAVE FUN with your drive! Sample Ideas:
  - Host a "Holiday Olympics" - divide into teams and take an afternoon to play a game (trivia, Pictionary, charades) - points are earned through the game, but teams can also get points for bringing in items for the drive (cans, toys, etc.). May the most generous team win!
  - Office Auction - Think of creative things that people in your organization might want: their own shelf in the refrigerator, an afternoon off, trade offices for a

week, etc and set up a silent auction with drive items(cans, toys, etc.) as the currency. Let the bidding begin!

- Artwork Competition - Order enough barrels for different employee groups to decorate (by department, building section, etc) Hold a kick-off event i.e.: informational meeting and decorating party. Display decorated barrels prominently and ask the entire employee population to "vote" for their favorite design by placing food items in their barrel of choice. Hold an "award" ceremony... the trophy can be a can of food spray painted gold... and can be passed along to the winning team each season.
- Additional Organizations for Monetary Donations and Volunteer Opportunities:
  - [Glide](#) (San Francisco)
  - [Sacred Heart Community Service](#) (Santa Clara County)
  - [EHC LifeBuilders](#) (Santa Clara County)
  - [InnVision](#) (Santa Clara County)
  - [UN World Food Programme](#) (International)
  - [Universal Giving](#) (International)
  - [CanadaHelps.org](#) (Canada)

#### **Volunteer with a community organization instead of hosting a holiday party.**

- Host a holiday celebration at a community organization surrounding a service activity.
- Volunteer at an organization for which you also did a drive. Helping to sort the donations brings the contribution to the community full-circle, while also helping employees identify better with the needs of the community.

#### **Include community organizations as a component of your holiday party.**

- Host your holiday party at a museum or community venue. By doing so, your company will have an amazing setting for employees and their families to gather while supporting these local treasures.
- Ask employees to bring a toy or can of food as "admittance" to your holiday party or hold a raffle in conjunction with your holiday party where the cost of each raffle ticket is a can of food (or the cash equivalent).

#### **Host a unique fundraiser.**

- Host a holiday ornament program with the proceeds from sales going to a community organization. For example, it costs \$18.00 to house a homeless child for one night; consider charging \$18.00 per ornament and all of the proceeds will be donated to a homeless shelter (e.g. Shelter Network, EHC LifeBuilders or Covenant House).
- Host a holiday bake sale or cookie fundraiser with the proceeds from sales going to a community organization.

**Purchase holiday cards, gifts, and decorations that support community organizations.**

- Holiday Cards
  - [CASA for Children](#)
  - [American Diabetes Association](#)
  - [UNICEF US Fund](#)
  - [UNICEF Canada](#)
- Christmas Tree Lots
  - [Delancey Street Foundation](#) (San Francisco)
  - [Los Altos Kiwanis](#) (South Bay)
  - [Aunt Leah's Christmas Trees](#) (Vancouver, BC)

**Be friendly to the environment.**

- Re-use or buy recycled ribbon and wrapping paper.
- Send online holiday cards.
- Re-use or buy recycled products for decorations.
- Use this [checklist](#) to reduce your waste this holiday season.
- Buy [green gifts](#), or [charity gift cards](#).