

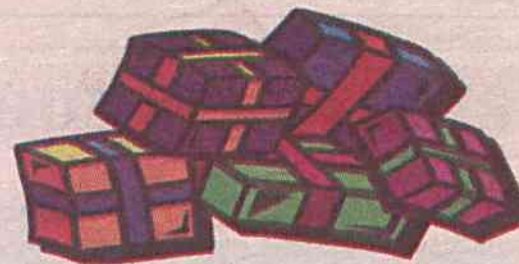
n to give back

Salvation Army Red Kettle 2005

Everyone is familiar with the sounds of the bells and the loose change clinking into the buckets outside of several storefronts throughout the holiday season. The famous red kettles and bell ringers began to appear in 1891. Since then, thousands of volunteers have stood outside in the cold collecting money for needy families, the elderly and the homeless. Money given the Salvation Army is used to give these people Christmas dinners, clothing, toys and financial assistance into the months following December. The organization usually helps over 7 million Americans during the holiday season.

Toys for Tots

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has been collecting toys for 58 years. The goal is to bring happiness and hope to disadvantaged children who would probably not be receiving gifts if it were not for this program. New, unwrapped toys are collected from October to December and are distributed within the area that the collection takes place. Last year, Toys for Tots delivered more than 9 million toys to over 7.5 million children. The program is IRS recognized 501 not-for-profit charity and all donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

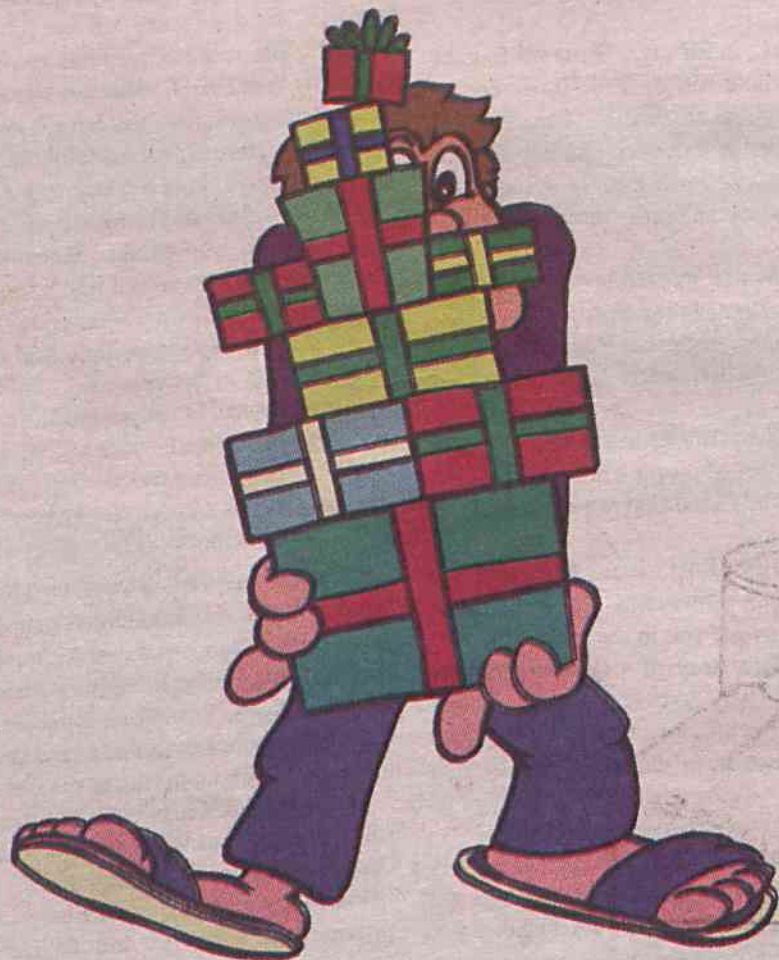


Secret Santa

SecretSanta.org is a non-profit organization that helps people find local toy drives. Their goal is to help direct much-needed support, gifts and donations to underprivileged children during the holiday season. Their web site, <http://www.SecretSanta.org>, helps individuals find information on hundreds of toy drives, including the children they support, suggested gift guidelines, key dates and toy donation drop-off locations.

Giving back can be as easy as donating old toys, sponsoring a child and sending items in a Christmas shoebox to children and their families in other countries who are in need. Many children would not be experiencing Christmas the way most kids do if it wasn't for the help of others.

Whether you drop some change into Santa's bucket outside a department store or donate old coats at church, every little bit counts. Christmas is the season for giving, so why not help out those who are less fortunate.



Contact Sarah Moser and Amy Parker at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247