

Grand Regent's Message – Happy Holidays

Suddenly, the Holidays are upon us. Store shelves are filled with glittering decorations, fancy foods and gift ideas for everyone from the mailman to Dad.

Not being one of those organized people, who had their shopping done in July, I find myself in the yearly 'panic mode', trying to find the perfect gifts for family and friends. If you are in the same boat, let me make a few suggestions - something different that we are going to do this Christmas.

For our oldest daughter, who volunteers for the local food shelter, we will pick up 2 or 3 extra items each trip to the grocery store, put them in a pretty box and deliver them to the food shelter the week before Christmas.

For our second daughter, who is a Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service and volunteers for their local library, we will purchase several children's books and pledge to read to children on a regular basis at our library.

For our son, who is active with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, we are making a pledge to their current 'Walk-a-Thon' in his name.

In memory of my Dad, who was a carpenter, we will pledge time and money to our local Habitat for Humanity's next home project.

And, in memory of my Mom, who loved flowers, we will purchase and plant, flower seeds and plants in the spring, to help make our neighborhood park more attractive.

In honor of our Pastor and his family, we will fill shoeboxes with small gifts that will be sent to children in Africa, through Operation Christmas Child.

Our local women's shelter is always in need of linens and toiletries and will surely enjoy the basket of towels, washcloths, soaps and toothpaste, etc., we will present them.

Aunt Jane, who loves cats, but isn't able to have pets in her apartment, will certainly appreciate knowing we have donated cat food, toys and litter to the Humane Society Shelter in her name. Plus, I'll pick her up once a month, so we can spend time with homeless cats in need of love and attention.

Uncle Jim, a faithful volunteer at the Thrift Store, will probably smile when he hears we finally cleaned our closets and drawers, and have donated several boxes of clothes and house wares in his honor.

Last, but certainly not least, for husband Louie, who is a Moose through and through, a generous check to Moose Charities.

And, we will certainly remember the children and seniors in our care, with cards and visits, to remind them that they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

The list goes on and on, but I'm sure you get the idea. We have so much and there are so many who have so little. Please join us this holiday season, in bringing a little joy to those in need around us.

Finally, in this spirit, Louie and I have decided that instead of sending Christmas cards this year, we will select two request cards from under the local Sharing Tree. We will then, use the money we would normally use for stamps, to purchase gifts for two children who would otherwise not receive a gift.

So, please consider this your Christmas greeting to you, our Moose friends. It is sent in the true spirit of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Wishing you and yours, a blessed Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2012.

Carolyn and Louie

December 2011