



TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP SOCIAL SERVICES OVER THE HOLIDAYS:

1. **Top priority:** Adopt a child or family through the **Santa Fund**. Donors buy a new outfit and new toy/gift and book of the child's choice. Contact Amanda Shute at santafund.nmct@gmail.com.
2. Purchase gift certificates, jewelry, sports goods, CDs, cologne, etc., to be used as tween and teen gifts for our "**Sibling Shopping**" event the first weekend of December. All gifts are due at Social Services December 1st. (Gift certificate ideas: pizza restaurants, coffee shops, movies, teen clothing stores, gaming stores, general merchandise stores; \$10 – 15 denominations). Think boys!!
3. Help neighbors cope with emergency needs by making a donation to the **Good Samaritan Fund** of Social Services. All donations go directly to basic needs support of New Milford families and special Social Services programs.
4. **Purchase a gift card** to be given to a disabled adult for the holidays. Greatest requests are for food, gas or Wal-Mart gift cards and bus passes.
5. Organize a **food drive** in your office, club, church, at a family gathering, as an alternate gift for holiday gatherings, etc. Bring non-perishable items to Social Services for the Food Bank. Greatest needs: tuna and other canned meats, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, stew, pasta sauce, peanut butter & jelly, paper towels, cereal, crackers. Then remember the Food Bank *after* the holidays, as hunger knows no season!
6. Purchase **children's hats, mittens, scarves or gloves**; these are distributed with gifts at the holidays. Deliver to Social Services by December 12th. **Greatest need is for older boys and teenagers.**
7. **Purchase toys or gift cards** for children and help the New Milford "**Stuff a Cruiser**" event at Wal-Mart in December 3rd. Ideas: Minecraft, Legos, Disney, Star Wars movie or theme toys
8. Buy **adult gloves and socks** to be distributed to homeless and other struggling adults.
9. **Hold a holiday party and determine an "alternate gift"** from one of the above needs to ask your guests to bring. (or a collection that can be given to the Good Samaritan Fund) Please contact Social Services with advanced notice if your event is large!
10. Purchase **toiletries** that can be distributed to families with holiday gifts. Items needed include toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, lotion and soap. Deliver to Social Services by December 12th.

A BIG THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

