



DECEMBER AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM PROMOTION

JESSICA ENNIS, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

December is a fantastic month for community outreach, as the focus shifts toward the upcoming holidays, cold weather, and the spirit of gratitude and giving. Remember that Auxiliary Outreach is all about donation of your **time**, not money or goods.

Food Insecurity: Given the proximity to the Holidays, projects focused on this are highly impactful.

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>How It Helps</u> |
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| Traditional Food Drive | Partner with an organization that is collecting canned goods and non-perishable items (pasta, rice, peanut butter, etc.) throughout the month at a central location | Supplies local food pantries for their busiest season, helping families struggling with food insecurity |
| "Holiday Meal Kit" Drive | Partner with an organization that is collecting ingredients for a complete Holiday dinner (e.g., canned yams, stuffing mix, canned green beans, instant mashed potatoes, gravy mix, etc.) | Provides entire families with the means to cook a holiday meal at home, preserving dignity and tradition |
| Volunteer at a Soup Kitchen | Organize a team to volunteer time serving or preparing meals at a local soup kitchen or shelter, especially around the holidays | Offers direct, hands-on help, providing warm food and companionship to the homeless and those in need |

Cold Weather & Shelter Needs

As temperatures drop, providing warmth and comfort becomes essential.

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>How It Helps</u> |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Coat/Blanket Drive | Partner with an organization that is collecting gently used or new coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and warm blankets for local homeless shelters or community centers | Directly provides warmth to children and adults who are vulnerable to cold weather and exposure |
| "I Care" or Hygiene Kits | Partner with an organization that is assembling kits in Ziploc bags or small totes containing essential travel-sized toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, socks, small snacks) | Supplies basic necessities for homeless individuals that are often overlooked in larger donation drives |

Gratitude & Mental Wellness

December is a time to express gratitude and connect with those who may feel isolated.



| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>How It Helps</u> |
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| Cards for Seniors/First Responders | Partner with an organization that is creating handmade greeting cards expressing gratitude and well wishes. Deliver them to local nursing homes, hospitals, or fire/police stations | Boosts morale, provides a feeling of connection, and acknowledges the hard work of essential staff and the isolation of residents/patients |
| Nursing Home Visits | Partner with the administration of a local senior center to read, play board games, or just chat with residents on behalf of the center's administration | Combats loneliness and provides essential inter-generational connection for isolated seniors |
| Thank You Baskets for Teachers | Partner with an organization that is putting together baskets of snacks, coffee, and small treats for staff rooms at a local school | Expresses appreciation for educators, who often work long hours without sufficient public recognition |

4. Literacy & Education Support

Mid-fall is a good time to check in on educational needs.

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>How It Helps</u> |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Book Drive | Partner with an organization that is collecting new or gently used books to donate to a low-income school, children's hospital, or local library literacy program | Promotes literacy and provides reading material to children and families who may not have access to books at home |
| Tutoring/Mentoring Sign-Up | Partner with a school to coordinate a program where volunteers can sign up to offer homework help or reading practice at a library or after-school program | Provides essential academic support to students who are struggling or need extra attention |

Tips for Success in December:

1. Hold an Auxiliary Vote to Approve the Project
2. Contact Partner Organization First: Before starting a project, call the partner organization to see how they will want your members to help conduct the activity
3. Make it Fun: Incorporate the autumn or holiday theme!
4. Wear Auxiliary Identification: your Auxiliary shirt, name badge, hat, etc., to show your affiliation
5. Document Everything: Take photos (with permission), track volunteer hours, and share the results of the drive to keep participants engaged and show the impact

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