Christmas Angels Page 1 of 2

Christmas is such a special time of year. It gifts us with lifelong memories. We are thankful for the precious gift of Christmas blessings received and shared in our own special way. Respect and kindness often spill over during the holiday season, and we do our best to share our blessings with those who are finding life less bright and happy on Christmas day.

Have you ever thought of being a Christmas Angel? Maybe you have already earned the title. The role can be very simple and requires only a small number of your 1440 daily minutes during this busy time of year. Below are steps to give you an idea of how this can work. There are no qualifications, just a willing heart. The purpose: to bring a moment of surprise and relief to children who need the warmth of socks, mittens, and a cap during the winter weather. Take a look at how this can happen. Let me just say, Angels can act individually or as a group.

- **Step 1:** Google/Al and ask for the poorest zip code in your city. If you live in a small city, you might only have one. If so, skip this step. (For readers in Memphis, TN, the poorest Zip is 38126. Remember, I lived there until a year ago.)
- **Step 2:** Google/Al and ask if there is a Homeless Center in your city. If not, ask Google/Al if the Salvation Army in your city has a Christmas program where items for children are accepted. Note: Al will give suggestions of where a Christmas program may be offered. The Salvation Army is mentioned in most cities. (In Memphis, TN, I am familiar with two places to consider contacting...Homeless Center, 383 Poplar Ave. and the Emmanuel Center, 604 St. Paul Ave. both will likely welcome items for the children they serve. The Emmanual Center is sponsored by a church and located in Zip 38126).
- **Step 3:** Depending on information gathered in Step 2, you might want to Google/AI for the names of churches in the poorest ZIP as often churches are familiar with the needs of their parishioners.
- **Step 4:** When a donation location is in place, it is time to spread the word. Post a bulletin or send an email to your fellow employees, apartment/condo neighbors, club members, and others inviting them to become Christmas Angels along with you. (There is a suggested message included to save you time.)
- **Step 5:** Place a container (box or bag) in a convenient spot to collect donated items. (A suggested sign to put on the collection container is included.)
- **Step 6:** Go shopping. Suggestion...start at the Dollar Tree. Their items work well. Select any size for children from K-12. If you only get one item—there will be one child who will smile on Christmas day. Be as generous as your heart will allow. Reminder...these items sell out quickly. Oh, and while in the store, a peppermint stick or a chocolate bar would be a real treat to go with your gift.
- Step 7: Write a note for the gift. (a suggestion is included). Just a simple note.
- **Step 8:** Deliver your gifts following the instructions provided. Most will want the gifts unwrapped. Check out when, where, how, and to whom the delivery should be made.
- **Step 9:** Enjoy the joy you will feel in your heart as you make the delivery. No doubt you will wonder about the person who picks your gift and you will wish for him/her warmth and a moment of happiness—and pure joy with a lick of the peppermint stick or a bite of creasy chocolate. You are indeed a messenger of joy: a true Christmas Angel.
- **Step 10:** The last step! Post a bulletin for those who donated to thank them and to tell them of the joy they provided to children who now can have warm toes, fingers, and ears in the cold winter weather!!! What a blessing. Included is a suggested message.

Thank you for reading Judy's and my Christmas thought and a special Merry Christmas to you! Should you decide to accept our thought we would enjoy hearing about your experience. Sample posters and messages are on the following.

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Program Announcement Poster

Christmas Angel Program
Hello,
Christmas is just around the corner. It has come to my attention that nationwide there are some 150,000 homeless children. Some of those children are here in our own community. Many without socks, mittens, cap to warm their toes, fingers, or ears as they wait outside for a school bus or walk to school. We can help. Arrangements have been made for our donations to be delivered to
Christmas season. Any size mittens, cap, or socks will work for children from K-12. A single item will be appreciated; yet be as generous as your heart will allow. Please drop your donation in this container, unwrapped. Oh, and, while in the store, a peppermint stick or chocolate bar would be an extra special Christmas treat. Your heart with be as warm as the children's toes, fingers, or ears as you drop your items in the container.
THANK YOU for being a Christman Angel!
Your name
Christmas Angel Program Sign for the container
Hello, please place your donation in this container. Delivery will be made to on
Thank you for being a Christmas Angel.
A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you!
Note for the gift
Hello, during this Christmas season I hope you will enjoy a little treat to keep you warm on these cold winter days. You are special. Give yourself a great big hug.
Signed the Christmas Angel
Thank You note to doners.
Hello, (donation: our socks, mittens, and caps, etc.) were delivered to on and will be distributed to the children for Christmas. The people at the center were most appreciative of your kindness and wanted me to be sure to tell you how much your gift will mean to the children.
Bless you and Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Your name



The download for the *M&M Christmas Story* follows. A great read for little ones—Enjoy.

M & M Christmas Story

As you hold these candies in your hand and turn them, you will see...

The **M** becomes a **W**, an **E**, and then a **3**. They tell the Christmas Story. One I am sure you know. It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

E The E is for the EAST where the star shone oh so bright.

M The M is for the *manger* where the baby Jesus slept that night.

3 The 3 is for the Wise men bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

W The W is for *Worship*. Praise to His name.

So, as you eat these M & M candies or share them with a friend, remember the Spirit of Christ and never let it end.

1. How can Santa deliver presents during a thunderstorm? 2. What kind of Christmas music do elves like? 3. What do snowmen call their offspring? 4. What did the peanut butter say to the grape on Christmas? 5. Why do Dasher and Dancer love coffee?

If you gave all the gifts listed in the Twelve Days of Christmas, it would equal 364 gifts.

If you

woke up as

a 100 foot

Christmas

tree, what

would you

see?

What was the silliest thing you saw today?

The Montgomery Ward department store created Rudolph the Reindeer as a marketing gimmick to encourage children to buy their Christmas coloring books.

GLASS

Santa's address:

123 Elf Road.

North Pole, 88888

The Statue of Liberty was aifted to the US by the French on Christmas day in 1886. It weighs 225 tons and thus you could consider it as the biggest Christmas gift in the world.

The oldest artificial Christmas trees date back to the late 1800s and were made of green raffia (think grass hula skirts) or dyed goose feathers. **Next the Addis Brush Company** used their machinery that wove toilet brushes to create pine-like branches for artificial Christmas

flammable and

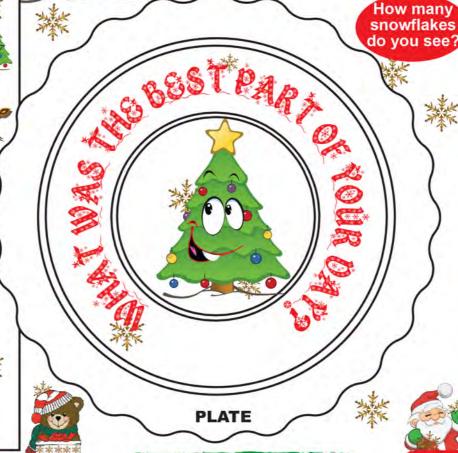
could hold heavier

decorations.



the first Christmas

postage stamp.



A useful way to recycle your

Christmas tree? Some zoos take donated Christmas trees and use them as food for the animals.

Coca-Cola was the first company that used Santa Claus during the winter season promotion.

K

P

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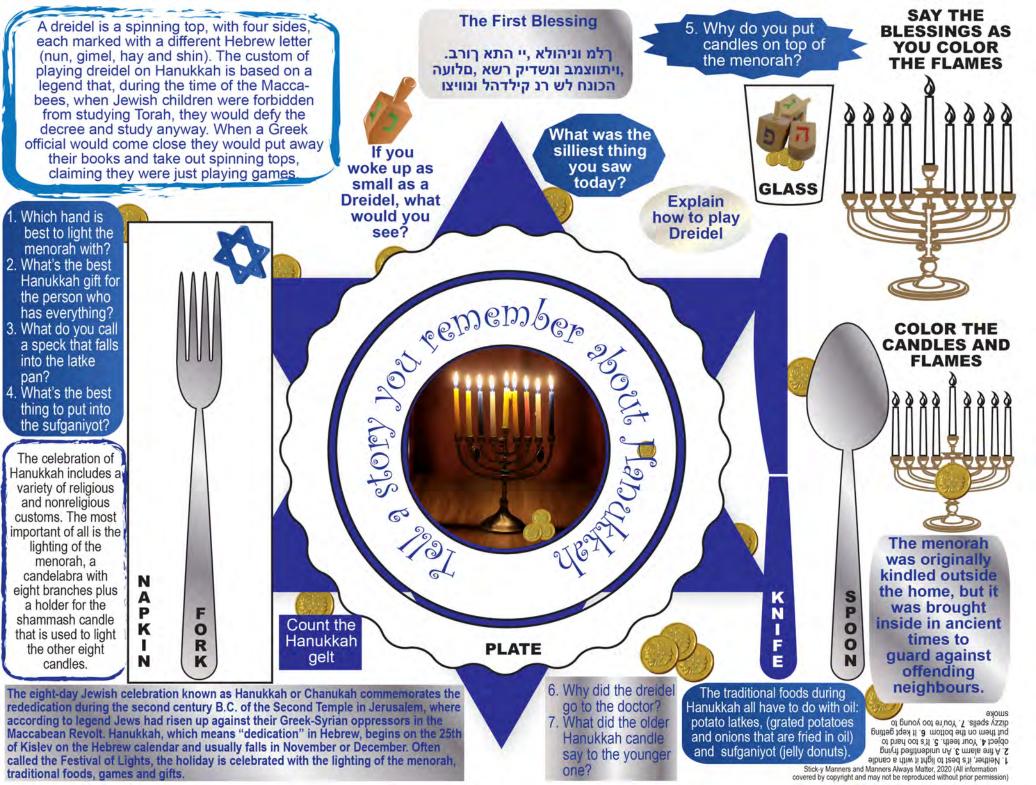
5. Because they're Santa's star bucks! 4. "Its the season to be jelly!"

DECORATE THE

TREES

1: His sleigh is flown by raindeer

2: "Wrap" music



The tradition of eating black-eyed peas and greens has roots back to the Civil War era. Black-eyed peas represent prosperity, and the greens signify wealth. Enjoy the tradition!

Black-Eyed-Pea Salad

Ingredients

¹/₄ C canola oil

2 T red wine vinegar

1 T Dijon mustard

½ tsp salt

½ tsp ground black pepper

2 (15-ounce) cans black-eyed peas, rinsed and drained

1 C chopped red onion

1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped

1 clove garlic, minced

½ cup chopped fresh parsley

2 T chopped fresh oregano

In a small bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper. In a large bowl, combine peas, onion, bell pepper, garlic, parsley, and oregano. Add prepared dressing and toss to coat.

Good Luck New Year's Black-eyed Peas

Ingredients

2 cans 15.5 oz. Trappey's Jalapeno Black-eyed peas – do not drain

1 med onion chopped

1 med green bell pepper chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

2/3 C Bloody Mary mix

1 10-oz pkg frozen, cooked, salad shrimp

4 T olive oil

Put olive oil in pot. Add chopped onion, bell pepper, and garlic.

Cook until tender.

Add peas and Bloody Mary mix.

Cook to a boil on medium heat.

Cover pot. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes.

Add shrimp and cook on low for 10 more minutes, uncovered.

Serve over rice—your preference: mixture of wild, brown, or white rice.

Really good!