

POINTERS FOR PARENTS

Tips To Help Teach Children The Charity Lesson

Charity begins at home, and that's the best place to learn just how satisfying giving can be.

Giving is a concept that some children may not understand right away, but if parents are prepared to answer a few questions-and present a good example-children quickly learn to appreciate the joys of giving.

Here are a few tips on teaching your child the gift of giving:

- Be charitable yourself. Children learn by example.
- Make it age appropriate. Pick a charity that helps children of a similar age to your child. For example, Toys "R" Us has teamed up with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to collect cash and toys for children in need. Last year, Toys "R" Us customers helped raise \$3.6 million in store. Toys for Tots distributed over 19 million toys to seven million children in 2004.
- From November 4 through December 26, Toys "R" Us will accept cash donations at their stores as well as online at www.toysrus.com.
- Fun is important for children.

Bring your child to the store to shop for gifts you will donate.

- Motivate your children by explaining the difference they make in the lives of others.
- Answer any questions your children may have. Children may want to know why others need help or where the children they are helping live.
- Point out each time someone does something charitable so that your child begins to recognize, appreciate and admire such actions.
- Point out that no effort is too small. Even \$1 makes a difference. If, for example, 100 people contributed \$1 each, 100 Toys for Tots could buy toys for 10 children.
- Relate to those you are helping. Charity is more than giving. Expose your children to those in need by working in a soup kitchen or visiting the elderly. The holidays can provide extra opportunities to help those in need and your children can pitch in. Giving is a gift, and it's a lasting gift that parents can give their children. ■

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Make Sure Your Donations Really Help

Disasters and crises bring out the best in human nature, but they can also bring out those who prey on others.

Numerous charity scams emerged after the 2004 Southeast Asia earthquake and tsunami. The Hurricane Katrina disaster offers a new opportunity for charity scammers.

If you're thinking of contributing to relief efforts, it's important to know where your donation dollars will go. U.S. Postal Inspectors offer these precautions: Avoid cash gifts. It's best to pay by check or credit card. Watch out for solicitations that come from an organization with

a name that sounds like a well-known charity. Check out the charity with the National Association of State Charity Officials at www.nasco.net.org or the Wise Giving Alliance at www.bbb.org.

If you believe you've been scammed, contact the Postal Inspection Service at www.usps.com/postalinspectors.

When making a charitable contribution, use a check or credit card instead of cash. ■

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A Decade Of Service By Young People

Over the past 10 years, more than 60,000 middle and high school students across the country have been recognized for doing something seldom associated with teenagers: volunteering.

Rather than spending all their free time socializing, shopping, skateboarding or playing video games, these young heroes-all honorees in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program-have devoted significant time and energy to making their communities better places to live. And they have had a remarkable effect on a wide variety of important causes.

What kinds of causes are they most interested in? A recent study of the program's top 1,000 honorees revealed that the most popular volunteer activity is helping sick or disabled people. Twenty-two percent of the honorees pursued this goal, by raising money for medical

treatment and research, providing support and cheer to ill children, conducting public information campaigns and working with disabled kids and adults.

Projects to aid the disadvantaged were almost as prevalent, undertaken by 20 percent of the honorees. Most of these focused on feeding the hungry or collecting needed items for poor families, homeless people, foster children, victims of abuse or violence and others in desperate or difficult circumstances.

Other causes that attracted considerable effort from the young volunteers included:

Enhancing school or community resources; teaching, tutoring or mentoring other young people; promoting health and

safety; reaching out to senior citizens; protecting the environment; addressing needs in other countries; promoting tolerance or diversity; and taking care of animals.

"Despite common stereotypes, many young Americans are clearly concerned about the broad range of needs that exist in most communities and they are taking action to address those needs," said Scott Peterson, executive director of The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Every year, the awards program, which is co-sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, searches for more young people in grades 5 through 12 who have distinguished themselves through volunteer work. For more information about the program and its honorees, visit www.prudential.com/spirit. ■

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the list...

<p>Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Monterey CA 93940 (831) 626-6254</p> <p>King City Salvation Army 301 Bassett Street King City CA 93930 (831) 385-3988</p> <p>King City Child Development Center 520 Collins King City CA 93930 (831) 385-5012</p> <p>Kinship Center 30 Ragsdale Drive, Ste 210 Monterey CA 93940 (800) 454-6744 www.kinshipcenter.org</p> <p>Landwatch Monterey County PO Box 1876 Salinas, CA 93902 (831) 422-9390 www.landwatch.org</p> <p>League of Women Voters PO Box 1302 Salinas, CA 93902 (831) 422-2429</p> <p>Life is for Everyone First Baptist Church of Salinas 1130 San Vincente Ave Salinas CA 93901 (831) 442-9872</p> <p>Los Medicos Voladores Monterey Bay Chapter PO Box 22342 Carmel, CA 93922 (831) 646-8740</p> <p>Lyceum of Monterey County 1073 Sixth Street Monterey CA 93940 (831) 372-6094 www.lyceum.org</p> <p>Leadership Monterey Peninsula 801 Lighthouse Ave Suite 204 Monterey CA 93940 Phone (831) 649-8252 Fax: (831) 655-9244 Email: hollyb@redshift.com</p>	<p>Web: www.mty.com/lmp</p> <p>Monterey County 4-H 1432 Abbott Street Salinas Ca 93901 Phone: (831) 759-7360 Fax: (831) 758-3018 cemonterey@usdavis.edu</p> <p>Monterey County Family Child CARE Association PO Box 4122 Salinas CA 93912 Phone: (831) 449-7074 Fax: (831) 449-7017 Email: mcfccca@earthlink.net Web: www.mccfccca.org</p> <p>Madonna Del Sasso Confirmation 320 E Laurel Drive Salinas CA 93901 (831) 757-5775</p> <p>Mee Memorial Hospital 300 Canal Street King City CA 93930 (831) 385-6000 www.meememorial.com</p> <p>Mazda Raceway-Laguna Seca 1021 Monterey Salinas Highway Salinas CA 93908 www.laguna-seca.com</p> <p>Meals on Wheels of Salinas Valley 229 Pajaro St Ste 303 Salinas, CA mealsonwheelsofsalinas.org</p> <p>Meals on Wheels of Monterey Peninsula Sally Griffin Center 700 Jewell Ave Pacific Grove CA 93950 (831) 375-4454</p> <p>Mission Trails www.missiontrailsrop.org</p> <p>Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) PO Box 6672 Salinas CA 93906</p>	<p>Moose Lodge #1165 111 Monterey St Salinas CA 93901 (831) 757-7800</p> <p>Monterey County Aids Project 780 Hamilton Ave Seaside CA 93955 (831) 394-4747 www.mcap.org</p> <p>Monterey Bay Aquarium 886 Cannery Row Monterey Ca 93940 (831) 648-4888 montereybayaquarium.org</p> <p>Monterey Bay Veterans Inc 32 C Cannery Row Monterey CA 93933 (831) 646-8324 www.mbv.org</p> <p>Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 299 Foam Street Monterey CA 93940 (831) 647-4253</p> <p>Monterey College of Law 100 Col Durham St Monterey Ca 93940 (831) 582-4000 www.montereylaw.edu</p> <p>Monterey County Agricultural Education Inc PO Box 7461 Spreckles, CA 93962 (831) 455-8177</p> <p>Monterey County Convention And Visitors Bureau PO Box 1770 Monterey CA 93942 (831) 675-6400 www.montereyinfo.org</p> <p>Monterey County Film Commission PO Box 111 Monterey Ca 93942 www.filmmonterey.org</p> <p>Monterey County Historical Society PO Box 3576</p>	<p>Salinas CA 93912 (831) 757-8085 www.users.dedot.com/mchs/index.html</p> <p>Monterey County Health Department/ Animal Services 160 Hitchcock Rd Salinas CA 93908 (831) 769-8850 www.co.monterey.ca.us</p> <p>Monterey County Housing Authority (831) 757-4657</p> <p>Monterey County Hospitality Association PO Box 223542 Carmel CA 93922 www.mcha.net</p> <p>Monterey County Office Of Education/ Head Start 901 Blanco Cir Salinas CA 93912 (831) 755-0350</p> <p>Monterey County School Workers Compensation JPA 76 Stephanie Dr Salinas, CA 93901</p> <p>Monterey County Free Libraries 26 Central Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 755-5838 www.mobac.org</p> <p>Monterey County Safe Kids Coalition 1200 Aguajito Rd Monterey CA 93940 (831) 647-7949</p> <p>Monterey Institute of International Studies 460 Pierce Street Monterey Ca 93940 (831) 647-1000 www.miiis.edu</p> <p>Monterey history & Art Association 5 Custom House Plaza Monterey CA 93940</p>	<p>Monterey Jazz Festival PO Box JAZZ Monterey CA 93940 (831) 373-3366 www.montereyjazzfestival.org</p> <p>Monterey Museum of Art 59 Pacific Street or 720 Via Mariada Monterey CA 93940 (831) 372-5477 www.montereyart.org</p> <p>Monterey Peninsula College/ Health Services Student Services Building 980 Fremont Blvd Monterey CA 93940 (831) 646-4017</p> <p>Monterey Peninsula Chamber Of Commerce 380 Alvarado Street Monterey CA 93940 (831) 648-5360 www.mpecc.com</p> <p>Monterey Peninsula Foundation PO Box 869 Monterey CA 93942 (831)649-1533 montereypeninsulafoundation.org</p> <p>Monterey Public Library 625 Pacific Street Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 646-3932 www.mobac.org</p> <p>Monterey Salinas Transit 1 Ryan Ranch Rd. (831) 424-7695 www.mst.org</p> <p>Monterey Symphony P.O. Box 3965 Carmel, CA 93921 www.montereysymphony.org</p> <p>Monterey Vintners & Growers P.O. Box 1793 Monterey, CA 93942 (831) 375-9400 www.montereywines.org</p> <p>Moss Landing Chamber of</p>	<p>Commerce P.O. Box 41 Moss Landing, CA 95039 www.monterey-bay.net/ml/</p> <p>Multiple Sclerosis Community Services 546 Abbott, Suite A Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 758-1663 www.msos.org</p> <p>NARFE – Salinas Chapter #1496 769 Ambrose Dr. Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 758-4888 forneyl@aol.com www.csfenarfe.org</p> <p>Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club Code EC 833 Dyer Rd. Room 437 Monterey, CA 93943 (831) 394-2347 W6fvi@arrl.net www.k6fy.org</p> <p>New Monterey Neighborhood Association 862 Lobos St. Monterey, CA 93940 (408) 375-0841 bob@evansmonterey.com www.newmonterey.nu</p> <p>NPS – National Naval Officers Assoc. 2 University Circle – SMC Box 1431 Monterey, CA 93943 (831) 656-2070 MJCromar@nps.navy.mil Web.nps.navy.mil/nnoa</p> <p>Native Sons of the Golden West 76 W. Alisal Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 757-1663</p> <p>National Steinbeck Center One Main St. Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 796-3833 www.steinbeck.org</p>
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Salinas Fire Fighters



Investing In Our Community



The Parent Center

Where Families Come To Grow, Learn and Play Together.

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- Childbirth Education
- Newborns: So you have a baby, now what?
- Parent/Child Activity Classes
- Cooperative Preschool
- Child Care
- Toy Lending Library
- Family Education – Infant/Adolescent Issues



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