

## Community Information & Volunteer Centre

### Kelowna Capital News 2011 October 21

#### **Christmas holiday giving can start now**

My husband started playing Christmas music on September 25th. "Only three more months until Christmas," he chanted, totally oblivious to most people's reaction of 'oh, no, I haven't started shopping or baking . . .'

Scrooge turned from 'uh humbug' to 'living the Christmas spirit 365 days a year'.

So following that literary example, now is as good a time as any to turn your thoughts to making the holiday season meaningful.

Does your heart go out to struggling families? You can sponsor a family by giving food, gifts for each family member or money for the host agency to buy needed items.

These families are working with local nonprofit agencies to improve their lives. Contact Kelowna Community Food Bank, Kelowna Community Resources, and The Salvation Army.

Use your shopping skills to meet basic needs of others. Blankets, socks, towels, linens and hygiene products are distributed by Kelowna's Gospel Mission.

Scarves, mitts, toques, lip balm, toothpaste, deodorant, combs as well as individually wrapped chocolates and candies are given to patients at the McNair Unit in Kelowna General Hospital.

Why not volunteer as a family to serve Christmas dinner? Decorating, table setting, and room cleanup are also part of the festivities.

Meals on a large scale are served by Kelowna's Gospel Mission, Victory Life Fellowship, and First United Church.

Financial donations are welcomed throughout our community by nonprofit organizations directly involved with needy men, women and children. Take a collection at work and give as a group. Buy one less present for each of your own family members and give the proceeds away.

Begin thinking now about how you want to help brighten our community with thoughtfulness during the holiday season.

An easy way to check out organizations in the Central Okanagan is through [www.kcr.ca](http://www.kcr.ca), Community Info Search.

Help make this season memorable.

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Kelowna  
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**Kelowna Community Resources**

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