

Share your Holiday Spirit

United Way Tips for Holiday Giving and Volunteering

Help spread holiday cheer to families and individuals in the Bay Area.

Don't delay, donate today!

By making your holiday donations early, you enable charities to plan and deliver resources to families and individuals more effectively.

If you have LIMITED time to get involved:

Donate a toy

Donate new, unwrapped toys, especially **books and learning toys**. Call 2-1-1 from San Francisco or United Way HELPLINK (800-273-6222) from other Bay Area counties to find organizations that are collecting toys.

Help Fight Hunger

Food for Bay Area Families runs from November 14 through December 31. Drop-off food donations to benefit Bay Area Food Banks are located at Albertson's stores throughout the region. You can also make a donation online at www.foodbayarea.org.

Lend a Hand to Former Foster Youth

Purchase a gift from the Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY) **Holiday Giving Tree**, which gathers gifts for former foster youth who are trying to make it on their own.

Contact HEY program coordinator: Sara Razavi at 415-808-4435.

Donate Blood

You can save a life by donating today! Call 2-1-1 from San Francisco or United Way HELPLINK (800-273-6222) from other Bay Area counties to find a donation center near you.

Shop for a Cause

Enroll in the Macy's West "**Thanks For Sharing**" campaign. For every enrollment, Macy's will make a \$10 donation to local charities. Enrolled cardholders will receive 10% back on all purchases made through December 30th. Obtain information at any Macy's store, on macys.com or by phone at 888-933-6229.

Help Bring 2-1-1 to the Bay Area

2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember phone number that connects people in need with community resources. United Way launched 2-1-1 in San Francisco in March. Help **promote and expand 2-1-1** throughout the Bay Area by contributing to United Way's Bay Area Community Fund. Donate now at www.uwba.org.

If you HAVE some time to get involved:

Brighten the Season for a Senior

Don't forget elderly adults in our area, many of whom spend the holidays alone. To find a program like On-Lok's "Holiday Buddies for Seniors," call 2-1-1 from San Francisco or United Way HELPLINK (800-273-6222) from other Bay Area Counties.

Prepare, Serve or Deliver Holiday Meals

Find a community kitchen in your area by calling 2-1-1 from San Francisco or United Way HELPLINK (800-273-6222) from other Bay Area Counties. Include children in your efforts to teach them the importance of community service.

Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst

Organize 12 of your co-workers or neighbors to take a free emergency preparedness course with the Red Cross. To register, visit this United Way partner's website at www.bayarea-redcross.org.

Share your Holiday Spirit

Host a Gift Drive for Incarcerated Girls

Make the holidays brighter for Bay Area girls in the juvenile justice system by organizing a gift drive at your office. The Girls Justice Initiative, a United Way community project, is gathering 2007 day planners and organizers, blank journals, gift cards for Waldenbooks or Borders, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, liquid face soap, toothpaste, deodorant, and non-metal hair products (rubber bands, scrunchies). Drop items off at United Way of the Bay Area, 221 Main Street, Suite 300, San Francisco. Call 415-808-4264 for more information.

If you HAVE more time to get involved:

Become an Earn it! Keep it! Save it! Volunteer

Help low-wage Bay Area residents claim tax credits they are due and link to asset-building resources. We need more than 2,000 volunteers to greet taxpayers, act as language interpreters, and file returns at over 100 locations in 7 Bay Area Counties. Training begins in January. Email vita@uwba.org for more information.

Answer the Call

United Way HELPLINK, which operates 2-1-1 San Francisco, relies on volunteers to help answer as many as 40,000 calls each year from people in need. Interested in volunteering? Learn more at www.211bayarea.org.

Make a New Year's Resolution to Volunteer

Connect with the Volunteer Center that serves your county by visiting www.uwba.org and clicking on "Take Action" from the drop down menu. These United Way partners can help you find volunteer opportunities throughout the Bay Area that match your interests and availability.

If you HAVE a desire to make a high-impact gift to the community:

Making a gift to United Way's Bay Area Community Fund is the single most effective way you can give back to your community. Your contributions support 250 grants and programs that serve Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. Give online at www.uwba.org

