

Shoppers Guide Article 12-4-18

Submitted by: Charlene Miller, Director/CEA Agriculture and
Barbara Roths, CEA Family Consumer Sciences

Butler County Extension Office to Collect and Share Toys

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....can you believe December is upon us? If the weather in November is any indication of what December weather will bring, I would guess that maybe, just maybe we will have a white Christmas! I know winter weather creates headaches and challenges for the farmers and ranchers out tending to the livestock. Nonetheless, the snow sure helps bring the Christmas spirit alive in many!

The Holiday spirit is alive in the Butler County Extension Office this time of year! For close to 10 years, our office has collected toys for those less fortunate. Winston S. Churchill quipped "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." It is a joy for our office to team up with Butler County 4-H Clubs to gather toys for children who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to receive them. Once our office collects the toys, we deliver them to the Salvation Army.

I know the joy and excitement in my children's eyes when they open their presents Christmas morning. To be able to help create that joy and give that opportunity to other youth sure does make a person feel good! We challenge you this Holiday season to focus on giving and sharing the Holiday cheer!

- Create a Family Gift-making project – Get the whole family involved in a gift-making project such as ornaments, frames, potted plants, soap, breads, etc.
- Play "Secret Santa" – Try to surprise neighbors, family members, and others with good deeds without getting caught. Take them cookies, help clean up leaves, etc.
- Give of Yourself – Create gift certificates offering services to your friends, neighbors or others in need. Examples could include: washing a car, running errands, baking a meal, picking up their yard...think of ways that could be helpful to others.
- Be Thankful – With all of the Holiday advertising, it's easy to lose sight of those things most important to us! Create a holiday tradition of counting your blessings where each family member writes something down and places it in jar and those notes can be read on a special day.
- Don't Forget Others – Reach out to local charities such as food banks, churches, shelters, programs that offer Angel Trees. Many families struggle this time of year to provide presents for their children. Even a small toy can be incredibly meaningful. Your time as a volunteer is also greatly appreciated.

With the Holiday season upon us, we hope you will join us in sharing Holiday cheer! If you would like to join us in donating toys, please bring them to the Extension Office by Noon, December 18th. Our office is located at 206. N. Griffith, El Dorado.