

# ‘Tis the season to give

(NC) After a year that feels particularly unkind, many of us are looking to give back this holiday season. Here are a few ideas to get you inspired:

**Charitable gift card.** Canada Helps, a platform for donating online, sells charity gift cards for all occasions. You can give these as a gift and your recipient can redeem them online, choosing from 17,000 Canadian charities such as Amnesty International. In fact, the organization itself is a non-profit, making the decision that much easier.

**Participate in a toy drive.** Many workplaces take part in a local toy drive, an easy way to give to a child in need. If your workplace doesn't participate in one, try creating your own or buying a toy and gifting it through a drive at the mall.

**Collect items for a local food bank.** Hosting a holiday party? Consider asking your guests to bring a non-perishable item to be donated to your local food bank. Another great way to gift food is



through grocery stores, which put together pre-packaged bags full of goods that can be purchased and dropped in a bin located in the store so you can skip having to make the drop-off yourself.

**Volunteer.** There are plenty of charities that require extra help around the holidays to sort toys, clothes and even turkeys. Local volunteer centres are a good place to start. They can help connect you with opportunities in your community.

**Make a donation.** December 31st is your last chance to make a donation in 2017, and therefore the last chance to reap the tax benefits this year.

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