Search Terms:

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**
  - Programs, generally supported by donations from the community, that attempt to facilitate enjoyment of Thanksgiving by low-income community residents through distribution of food baskets which usually contain a ham, turkey or other meat and all of the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner (or vouchers to purchase these items).

- **Thanksgiving Meals**
  - Programs that provide a hot Thanksgiving meal in a congregate setting for low-income and homeless individuals and families who might otherwise have no opportunity to celebrate the holiday. Also included are programs that deliver Thanksgiving meals to people's homes.

- **Christmas Baskets**
  - Programs, generally supported by donations from the community, that attempt to facilitate enjoyment of the Christmas season by low-income community residents through distribution of food baskets which usually contain a ham, turkey or other meat and all of the trimmings for a Christmas dinner (or vouchers to purchase these items) and occasionally gifts for children or other family members.

- **Christmas Meals**
  - Programs that provide a hot Christmas meal in a congregate setting for low-income and homeless individuals and families who might otherwise have no opportunity to celebrate the holidays. Also included are programs that deliver Christmas meals to people's homes.

- **Christmas Festivals**
  - Programs that sponsor special events during the Christmas season which may feature decorated trees, displays of decorated wreaths, gingerbread houses, stocking parlors, food, entertainment, holiday crafts shopping, live reindeer and appearances by Santa.

- **Christmas Trees**
  - Programs that make evergreen trees available to low-income community residents during the Christmas season.

- **Hanukkah Programs**
  - Programs that sponsor menorah lighting ceremonies, children's activities and other events that help the community enjoy and celebrate Hanukkah. Activities may include guest speakers, singing, games, traditional foods (potato latkes and jelly doughnuts) and the lighting of the first candle. Gifts may be provided for children. Hanukkah begins on the night of the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, which usually falls in December.

- **Kwanzaa Programs**
  - Programs that sponsor social gatherings or other activities during the December holidays to celebrate the Kwanzaa festival, an African American celebration of life that occurs between

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December 26th and January 1st each year. Families are invited to learn about and celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa (unity, self-determination, working together, sharing, purpose, creativity and faith); make decorations in Kwanzaa colors (black, red and green) and enjoy a special African American meal. Gifts for children, including food, clothing, toys and other items, are often provided.

- **Holiday Gifts/Toys**
  - Programs, generally supported by donations from the community, that provide gifts such as clothing, toys and other items to help low income individuals and families, older adults, hospital patients and others celebrate any of the annual holidays.

- **Holiday Adoption Programs**
  - Programs that sponsor "Adopt-A-Family" programs during the holidays which match people who want to provide personalized holiday assistance (usually gifts, an invitation to a holiday meal or party or a food basket) with an older adult, an individual with a disability, a low-income family or others in their community who would be unable to celebrate and enjoy the holiday without the sponsor’s generosity.

- **Holiday Donations**
  - Organizations that sponsor programs during any of the holidays which serve as a point of contact for people in the community who wish to make a donation (food, gifts, toys, money or other material goods) that will be used for seasonable charitable purposes. Included are organizations that provide central collection points throughout the area for donated toys and gifts, mall programs that encourage people to purchase a gift on behalf of a child during the Christmas season, programs that collect food items for holiday baskets and other similar initiatives.

- **Volunteer Opportunities**
  - Community organizations that are actively seeking individuals with the requisite knowledge, skills and experience who are willing to offer their services and work on a full or part-time basis without remuneration on projects or in positions that benefit the organization itself or the people it serves. Many agencies that provide volunteer opportunities also offer intensive training in the tasks that are required for the job.

**Additional Info:**

- Information changes throughout the holiday season, so if you aren’t finding resources when you search, check back for updates!
- There may be times when there are no resources in a certain area. 211info staff record these as unmet needs. If you know of resources in your community that are not listed in the 211info database, please email support@211info.org or visit: https://www.211info.org/providers
- Problem solving ideas:
  - Search for general **Food Pantries**
  - **Thrift Shops** for low-cost toys
  - **Clothing Closets** or **Clothing Vouchers** for free or low-cost clothing
  - Reach out to faith-based or other community organization, such as your child’s school, that you’re engaged in

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