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Holiday giving season offers opportunities to give back

CONROE, Texas (November 19, 2013) -- It's easy to get caught up in the commercialism of the holidays, shopping for gifts and fueling anticipation of the new toys, clothes and other goodies that lie ahead. CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County encourages area residents to delight in the season by also celebrating the joys of giving back.

"Kids and adults alike deserve to experience the fun of 'getting' during the holidays, but giving can be just as fulfilling," says Executive Director Ann McAlpin. "Helping others offers 'teachable moments' for children and a reminder for grown-ups that giving is what the holiday season is really all about."

CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County, which trains volunteers to serve as Advocates for abused and neglected children as they navigate the child welfare system, offers these ideas for how to give back during the holidays.

- After you've shopped 'til you've dropped on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, make an online tax-deductible donation to your favorite charity on Giving Tuesday, a tradition started in 2012 by a coalition of 1,400 charitable organizations.
- Encourage children to brighten the season for boys and girls who do not have loving families of their own. Take your kids shopping for a new item to donate to Toys for Tots or find a local nonprofit that provides warm coats, backpacks or other items to foster children.
- Many nonprofits sponsor "adopt-a-family" opportunities during the holidays, offering the chance to provide gifts and groceries to low-income families. "This is a great way to build camaraderie among office co-workers," suggests McAlpin.
- Volunteer as an individual or a family to serve meals to homeless families.
- Extend the warm feelings of the holiday season by embracing a long-term volunteer commitment for the new year.

"Like other nonprofits that rely on volunteers to deliver on our mission, CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County appreciates community members' year-round dedication to our cause," says McAlpin. "CASA volunteers change lives. What could be more fulfilling than that?"

To learn more about how volunteering or supporting CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County can make a difference at the holidays or anytime throughout the year, visit the website at www.CASASpeaks4Kids.com.

About CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County:

CASA Child Advocates is Montgomery County's only organization appointed by the court to advocate for abused and neglected children. CASA Advocates speak up for the best interest of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their parents and are under the Court's jurisdiction. CASA's goal is to provide a court-appointed volunteer to serve as Guardian ad Litem for every child in the foster care system, and to break the cycle of abuse, one child at a time. For the past 21 years, CASA has been training volunteers, raising awareness in the community, and working to stop the cycle of child abuse in Montgomery County.

Learn more about CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County at www.CASASpeaks4Kids.com and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CASACHildAdvocatesofMontgomeryCounty>

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