Holiday puts focus on others and volunteers are needed: Neighbourhood Network

With the Christmas season upon us, we are reminded of the people around us who are less fortunate.

It seems this is the time of the year when the focus is truly on others.

At Neighbourhood Network, we have many opportunities for you to give back in the true spirit of Christmas to help others. We are still accepting toys that are distributed to our many partner organizations involved in toy drives. Our partners let us know what items they require to meet the needs of their clients. We sort the items generously donated by you to provide them with their needs. At the same time, this will ensure your gift truly makes it into the hands of someone in need.

Our snow shovelling program partners volunteers with low income seniors and people with disabilities who truly can't clear their own way. These folks often feel like prisoners in their own homes, being unable to get out to access their essential needs. We have lots of worthy recipients, some right in your very neighbourhood. We are prepared to make the connection but need the volunteers to do it.

Also, we have partnered with the Salvation Army to assist with scheduling volunteers for their annual Kettle Drive. Want to get in the spirit? Take a shift on the Kettle and witness the generosity first hand of people in our community, all there to help others. Our website features many opportunities for you to give back. Visit www.nnetwork.org to see more.

If you haven't stepped up to give back in the past, I encourage you to do it this holiday season. I guarantee you will find the spirit that makes this time of year so special. On behalf of the whole Neighbourhood Network Team, Lisbeth, Erin, John, Maggie and myself, we wish you a Merry Christmas and encourage you to volunteer.

It's the gift that keeps on giving.

Steve Hinder Magna for Community Neighbourhood Network