

Season of Giving

Tools To Help Promote The Spirit Of The Season

(NAPSA)—When you make your list and check it twice, don't forget to include those who are less fortunate. Add some items to this holiday's list that will benefit those people who may have to do without.

A holiday tree is the focal point of many homes, businesses and community facilities during the holidays. If you own wooded land, invest in a chain saw and cut some trees for local charities, nursing homes and medical facilities. Don't forget about greenery for wreaths and trim. Residents will appreciate the holiday cheer.

If you're considering upgrading some of your tools this year, donate older ones to local charities. A number of organizations will be grateful for a rake or a snowshovel, while you can save your back and upgrade to a leaf blower or snowblower attachment for your riding mower. If you have some time to give, haul your mower and attachments to the facilities and clear their driveways and walks for them.

Many local community centers put on holiday shows to celebrate the season and volunteers are often in short supply. Donate your time, and pack up your tools to help them build sets or decorate their buildings. Again, consider donating old tools, but check all power cords and cables for breaks or fraying. Replace cords that are too damaged or perhaps simply upgrade to cordless equipment.

You may not have your own reindeer and sleigh, but you can still volunteer to bring gifts to needy children this year. Deliver gifts in style by hooking up a utility cart to your riding equipment. A John Deere green tractor would look festive with Santa's red suit.



You may have the tools for playing Santa Claus right in your own garage.

Still growing some blooms in your garden or transplanting some flowers indoors? As the seasons end, donate your extra blossoms to medical facilities or soup kitchens. Better yet, hand deliver your plants, and stay to donate some time cheering up patients or preparing a meal.

Even if you don't have the "white Christmas" of song, the cooler weather means it's a good time to provide some regular maintenance or winterize equipment for storage. Give your machines a thorough cleaning, tune-up and damage inspection. Perhaps it's time to upgrade to a new riding lawn mower, add a utility vehicle or even a compact utility tractor. Make a tax-deductible gift of your old machine to a local nonprofit organization after you're certain it's in good working order.

This year, the best gift you give could be your gifts of time, talent and equipment to those in need. Long after the holiday season is over, these gifts will be remembered and appreciated.