



## Helpful Holiday Hints

### Family Fun Ideas To Brighten The Holiday Season

(NAPSA)—The holiday season is a time to celebrate family and friends and to appreciate the people that are important to us. It is also a time to cultivate one's ability for creativity, charity and festivity.

From decking the halls and hosting holiday parties to giving something back to the community, the holiday season offers many opportunities to make life a little brighter. M&M/MARS has a few suggestions for the holiday season.

#### Creative Decorating Ideas

Decorating your home is one of the fun parts of the holidays. Sprinkle some creativity into your holiday décor by hosting a family get-together to trim the tree, hang twinkle lights and deck the halls... with boughs of candy. To make this eye-catching (and edible) decoration, simply lay your holiday garland out flat and position candy pieces—like Starburst® Candy Canes and Snickers® Brand Nutcrackers—evenly along its length and tie candies to garland with colorful ribbon. Display your delicious garland on the mantel, dining room table or anywhere else you want to add a festive touch.

#### Giving Back To The Community

Charitable organizations will need extra support and help this holiday season. Volunteering at a soup kitchen with your family or delivering homemade holiday cards and candies to needy children are wonderful ways to give back to the community. You can also organize a group to wrap gifts at the mall and donate the proceeds to your favorite charity. Families that are athletic can participate in a community fun run where proceeds go to a deserving cause. Contact local organizations in your area to find out what other ways you can help during the holidays.

#### Festive Holiday Recipes

The kitchen is a great place for the family to be together and to create a delicious treat. A tasty delight perfect for any festive gathering is Dove® Chocolate Creamy Cookies. These luscious cookies are simple to make and will surely have family and friends coming back for more.



A sweet idea for the holidays is to decorate and bake using candy favorites.

#### Dove® Chocolate Creamy Cookies

- 1 package (11 oz.) Dove® Milk or Dark Chocolate Gifts
- 2 sticks softened butter (½ lb.)
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Unwrap the chocolates and place 12 candies in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat at medium power until melted (or melt in a double boiler over simmering water). Do not allow the chocolate to burn.
3. In separate bowl, cream butter and sugar.
4. Add flour and melted chocolate. Stir until blended.
5. Take about one tablespoon of dough and shape into a ball. Flatten slightly with the bottom of a glass. Press one of the remaining chocolates into the center of the dough.
6. Place on baking sheet. Bake cookies until set, about 10 minutes.
7. Cool slightly before serving, as chocolate will be hot at first.

Makes 3 dozen cookies.

For more creative holiday ideas and recipes, visit [www.mars.brightideas.com](http://www.mars.brightideas.com). Click. Create. Celebrate™.