

5 Best Events to Engage and Support Residents During the Holidays

The holiday season is a wonderful time of togetherness and joy. Most communities are blessed to be filled with diverse residents of many faiths, ethnicities, and backgrounds. What better time of year than the holiday season to have an inclusive celebration! No matter which particular holiday is being celebrated, we can all generally agree that family, friends, and giving are at the heart of the season! Here are five of the best ways to engage and support residents of your community during the holiday season.

Hold a Holiday Decorating Contest

Having a decorating contest is a great way to get everyone involved and make the whole area look more inviting and festive. Invite everyone to decorate their homes and yards. Take a vote and give away prizes for the top three winners. This is an awesome way for everyone to share their own traditions and beliefs with the rest of their neighbors in a beautiful and gentle way.

Organize a Charitable Donation Drive

There are so many great charities and organizations out there that can use some help this time of year, and helping others makes us feel good. Get everyone's minds off their own problems and help the greater good by donating to a toys-for-tots event or gathering food for a food drive or clothing, old coats, or blankets for a homeless shelter.

Have a Community Holiday Party

Choose a day in the middle of the holiday season on which no actual holiday falls and organize a community party and potluck dinner for everyone. This will give each family a chance to share their particular celebrations and food with the

group. Everyone can take a moment to step away from the pressures of preparing for their own holiday and relax with their neighbors for an evening.

Organize a Neighborhood Volunteer Day

Choose a day where everyone can give back to the community. You can organize a cleanup crew to pick up trash or do landscaping that has been forgotten or belongs to elderly members of the community. A group could go and contribute time to a local food pantry, soup kitchen, or animal shelter. If there is a hospital or senior living facility in your area, it might be nice to organize a visit there as well.

Have a Holiday Bake Off

This event goes well with a community party or dinner. Have each family bring their favorite holiday dessert. There can either be a panel of testers or a group vote. However you choose to do it, there will be enough sweets to go around for everyone!

It's really easy to organize a special delegation at your next board meeting to get started on planning a holiday event in your community. These kinds of events serve as a great way for everyone to get to know each other and build a true sense of community while also coming together to accomplish something and celebrate the holiday season.