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TRY THIS ONE: OUTREACH

Try this variation of the traditional Giving Tree or Angel Tree.

A few weeks before your church sets up its Giving Tree, work with local service organizations to find simple service projects that your teenagers, their family members, and church members can do in your community. You might suggest making food baskets at the local food bank, helping decorate a homeless shelter for the holidays, or spending time with shut-ins or nursing-home residents whose families are out of town. Record these ideas on paper ornaments that are a different color from those being used for Giving Tree gift requests. Include on the ornament the name of the service organization, a description of the service project, and a contact name. Add these ornaments to your church's Giving Tree to encourage the Christmas spirit through hands-on service.

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