



December 10, 2015

Dear Leaders,

It is my hopes each of you had a Thanksgiving filled with many things along with family, friends, great food and taking the time to relax and reflect on the blessings that you have received as well as given.

Although, my heart is always filled with acts of kindness, I especially enjoy helping those in need. As volunteers we have the opportunity to give gifts that are priceless; a warm smile or a cheerful hello to those who enter our hospitals is a gift for many who cannot place a price on it. This time of the year brings sadness especially for those who are alone and are living in a situation less fortunate than you or me. Please join me in donating food, performing small acts of kindness and just passing a good deed forward. Not only will you be remembered but your heart will be filled with gladness.

It is so hard to believe within a few weeks we will be celebrating a New Year and a new beginning for many.

If you plan to entertain I have listed a few great tips that often works for me:

The key to a successful gathering is planning. However impromptu entertaining can be very successful and is sometimes the most fun. Nonetheless some preparation is still necessary. Regardless of the type of entertainment you choose, the setting of your home should make your guests feel special as well as comfortable. Once you've established the type of entertainment you plan to host, set the tone; now move to the next step, this means; if you prefer your guest to stroll and mingle as they eat, your menu should consist of ALL finger foods thus requiring at minimum a fork. If your meal is sit-down, there is no limit to your menu. Regardless of the tone you set for your guest, bring out your best china, stemware and flatware (patterns do not have to match). Include your best linens and LEAVE THE PAPER PRODUCTS IN THE STORE.

As your guest enter your home make certain your home is festive and have a WOW effect. This will immediately start a conversation for the shyest guest or someone who is not necessarily familiar with other guests. This approach is a definite conversation starter that will lead to guest introducing themselves to one another before you get to do the job.

DO'S and DON'TS

DO ask a good friend or two to take turns filling dishes as they become empty also, punch bowls, etc., allowing you more time to spend with guests.

DO have a small gift for your guests as they depart. Baked goods are always an excellent choice. If the recipe is not a family heirloom, include it in your gift bags.

DO NOT serve foods like barbeque or with red sauces unless the setting is super casual.

*DON'T try new recipes especially one you have not perfected.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME!*

It does not matter if you are celebrating, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or Christmas, I wish you and yours the absolute best now and throughout the coming New Year.

Please DO NOT forget your yearly Hours and Dollars report that is due in January. This report is very important, it shows the number of hours each volunteer has contributed as well as its monetary value. Additionally, your Digest report is due February 5, 2016. As always if you have questions and or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Pat Esselman, SED President

TOGETHER...WE CAN!