



More Tips for Teaching Your Kids About Giving

Laura and Bob Callaci have been working for about two years on family stewardship projects with their sons, fifth-grade twins Justin and Matthew, and their third-grade brother, Logan.

We mentioned projects in a feature in the February 2009 edition of *Forever Family*, but here are more project ideas and suggestions from their experience.

1 Instead of receiving Christmas presents, the boys ask for money to buy items to donate to a family through the St. Vincent DePaul Society. For this effort, they involved grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The gifts went to a family at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora.

2 When they learned a neighborhood teenager was suffering from Lupis, they hosted a summer party that raised over \$1,200 in cash for the family.

3 They collected more than 1,000 food items for a local food pantry before Christmas this year, with help from school friends. The Callaci boys had saved money from their allowance to buy candy canes, which they then sold at school to help raise money to pay for the pantry items.

4 Get the rest of the family involved. There are some activities that children can't do during the day, such as helping stock shelves and distribute food on weekdays at a food pantry. Sometimes parents and grandparents can help at those times.

5 The boys are saving money from their allowances to have flyers printed so they can hand them out in their neighborhood. They will be asking neighbors for donations for this year's Barn Sale, sponsored by St. Peter Parish in Geneva, and offering to pick up and deliver the contributions.

6 Ask local businesses and vendors for their help in charity efforts. "People don't realize they have a budget every month that they can provide," she says of businesses. "They're hit hard for (holidays), but if you go at off-times during the year, you can get a gift card (for charity). You do have to go through some hoops and fill out some forms. You're doing the communications part (for your children) and hooking up the vendors with your local community (charities)."



(Photo provided)

7 Spend time when you don't have money. "Think out of the box," Laura suggests. "Whether its helping a child that's sick or visiting one of the shelters, just to see what it looks like. Not everything's grandiose."

8 Keep things local. Even though some of their efforts have helped people far outside of the Rockford Diocese, there are always places to help near home.

9 Take the kids whenever you can. "They've seen shelters, people living 60 in a room, living out of laundry bags." Seeing is believing, when it comes to teaching children that their efforts really make a difference to others.