

# Give Back. Get Connected. Make a Difference.

**expert**  
CONTRIBUTOR

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## Looking to Volunteer This Holiday Season?

The holiday season is about more than lights and decorations – it’s about kindness, generosity, and connection. As our community gears up for celebrations, many of our neighbors are facing challenges that can make this time of year especially tough. The good news? There are plenty of ways, both big and small, to make a meaningful difference right here in Brentwood.

### Support Local Food Drives

One of the simplest ways to help is by contributing to local food pantries. *The Brentwood Regional Community Chest* and *Monument Crisis Center* organize seasonal food drives to provide meals to families who might otherwise go without. Consider donating canned goods, boxed meals, or even volunteering a few hours to help pack and distribute holiday boxes.

### Bring Joy Through Local Giving Programs

The magic of the holidays is often found in the joy of giving – and there are many local initiatives designed to make that possible. *Toys for Tots* and the *Brentwood Police Department’s Toy Drive* collect new, unwrapped gifts for children in need. Meanwhile, organizations like the *Rotary Club of Brentwood* partner with local nonprofits on programs such as *Adopt-a-Senior* and support efforts through *Community Chest* to ensure vulnerable neighbors of all ages feel cared for during the holidays.

### Serve a Warm Meal

If you’re looking for a hands-on way to give back, consider volunteering at a local meal service. Organizations like *Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa* and local churches host holiday dinners and are always grateful for extra help serving food, greeting guests, or cleaning up afterward.

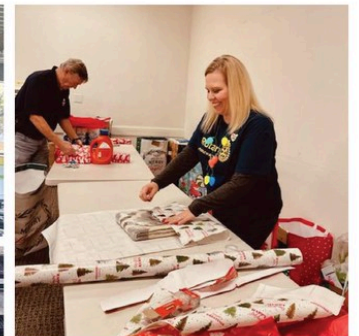
### Lend a Hand to Animal Shelters

Our furry friends need support, too. Local groups like *H.A.L.O. Animal Rescue* and *Friends of Animal Services* often seek volunteers to walk dogs, socialize cats, or assist with adoption events – and donations of pet food, toys, and blankets are always appreciated.

Whether you give an hour of your time or commit to a longer volunteer project, every act of kindness makes a difference. The holidays are brighter when we lift each other up – and there’s no better gift you can give than the gift of community.

If you’d like help finding a volunteer opportunity that fits your interests or schedule, I’m always happy to connect you with local organizations and causes making an impact this season.

**Author Bio:** Christine is a Brentwood-based Realtor® who believes that real estate is about more than houses – it’s about building relationships, strengthening community, and creating spaces where people truly feel at home.



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