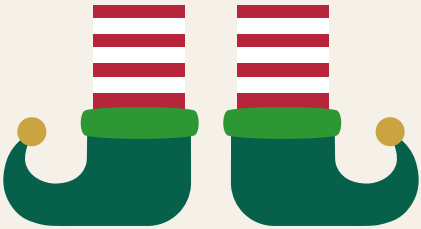


MISSION: ELF PROJECT

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER ACROSS MCHENRY



YOUR ELF MISSION

Santa can't spread holiday cheer alone!

This season, McHenry's elves are on a mission and you're invited to join! Together, we'll spread kindness, share joy and build connections throughout our community.

1 CHOOSE YOUR MISSION

Explore each week's missions and choose the ones that inspire you!

2 SPREAD SOME CHEER

Complete your mission on your own or with your family and friends.

3 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Capture your Elf Moment with a sElfie, then file an Elf Report below!

FILE YOUR ELF REPORT

Show us your sElf in action!



TAG US

Post a sElfie of you or your group completing a mission and tag @mchenryareachamber on social media.

OR

SHARE YOUR sELFIE

Visit our Mission: Elf page to upload your photo and see what other McHenry elves are up to!

The Cheer is Spreading!

Visit our Community Cheer Wall or share your own sElfie!

Camera shy? Show us your good deed instead!

Photo Permission: By tagging the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce or submitting a photo, you confirm you have permission from everyone pictured, including parent/guardian permission for minors, and grant the Chamber permission to use the photo on the Mission: Elf Project Community Cheer Wall and in future Chamber website, social media, print, marketing and promotional materials.

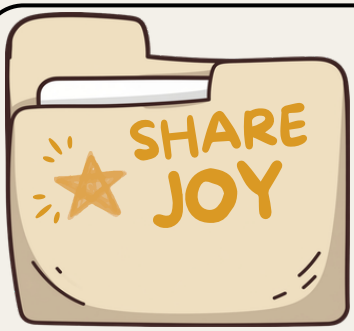


WEEK ONE: Share Gratitude



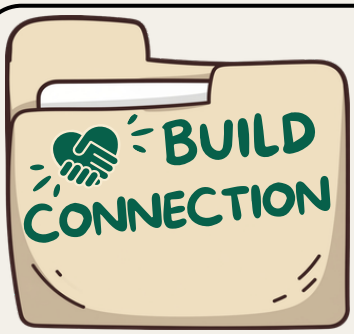
Goal: Do something good.

- [ ] **Thank the people who serve McHenry.**
  Write a thank-you note to a teacher, first responder, city employee, volunteer, delivery driver, crossing guard, or other community helper.
- [ ] **Surprise someone who's made a difference.**
  Deliver a small treat or surprise to someone you're grateful for and tell them why.
- [ ] **Make sure good work gets noticed.**
  Tell someone's boss or organization when an employee, volunteer, or community member goes above and beyond.



Goal: Celebrate McHenry.

- [ ] **Help kick off the holidays.**
  Attend McHenry's Christmas Tree Lighting and thank someone who helped make it happen.
- [ ] **Give McHenry a shout-out.**
  Share a message of gratitude on social media and tag a local business or organization.
- [ ] **Share a little holiday cheer.**
  Use a talent or activity you enjoy—baking, crafting, music, art, or something else—to brighten someone else's day.



Goal: Bring people together.

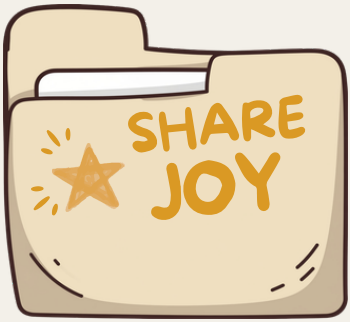
- [ ] **Have a "you matter" conversation.**
  Tell someone something they've done that mattered to you.
- [ ] **Gather around gratitude.**
  At dinner, over coffee, at work, or with friends, have everyone name one person or part of the community they're thankful for and why.
- [ ] **Give a referral.**
  Tell a friend or family member about a McHenry business or organization you appreciate and why their work matters.

WEEK TWO: Support Local



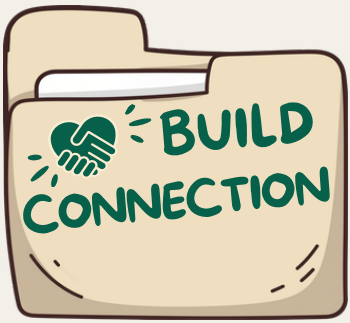
Goal: Do something good.

- [ ] **Help spread the word.**
  Pick up a local business's card, menu, flyer, or event information and pass it along to someone who might enjoy it.
- [ ] **Give a local business some stars.**
  Leave a positive online review for a McHenry business you appreciate.
- [ ] **Make their day easier.**
  Be an extra-kind customer—be patient, tidy up after yourself, return your cart, or offer a sincere compliment.



Goal: Celebrate McHenry.

- [ ] **Give the gift of local.**
  Visit a Holiday Market and choose at least one holiday gift that's made, sold, or provided by a McHenry business.
- [ ] **Take a local taste test.**
  Try a food, drink, treat, or menu item from a McHenry business that you've never had before.
- [ ] **Make a local day of it.**
  Choose two or three McHenry stops and turn errands into a local adventure.



Goal: Bring people together.

- [ ] **Meet the people behind the business.**
  Introduce yourself to a local owner or employee and learn something about their story.
- [ ] **Make a local introduction.**
  Connect two McHenry people or businesses you think could benefit from knowing each other.
- [ ] **Follow a local recommendation.**
  Ask a friend, neighbor, or coworker to take you to a local place they love and experience it together.





Mission Accomplished?
Don't forget your sElfie.

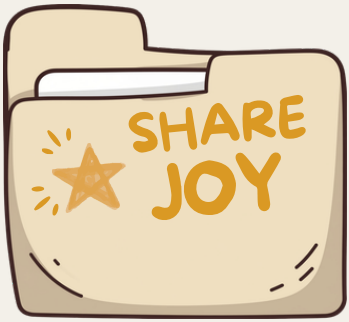
WEEK THREE: Community Care





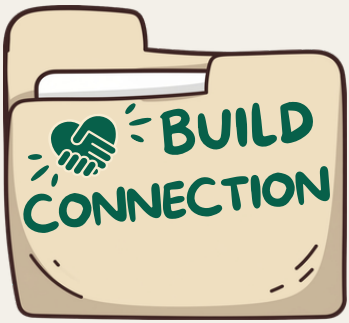
Goal: Do something good.

- [ ] **Help stock a local pantry.**
  Place a non-perishable food item under your favorite tree at the Festival of Trees at the McHenry Recreation Center .
- [ ] **Warm someone up this winter.**
  Hang a new pair of mittens, gloves, or a hat on the Mitten Tree at Miller Point.
- [ ] **Give the gift of your time.**
  Volunteer with a local nonprofit, school, service organization, or community program.



Goal: Celebrate McHenry.

- [ ] **Welcome someone to McHenry.**
  Take someone who's new to the community to a local place you think they should know.
- [ ] **Choose a gift for someone you may never meet.**
  Pick out a new toy, book, or other requested item for a local holiday giving program.
- [ ] **Brighten your corner of McHenry.**
  Create a festive window, yard display, sign, or decoration for others to enjoy.



Goal: Bring people together.

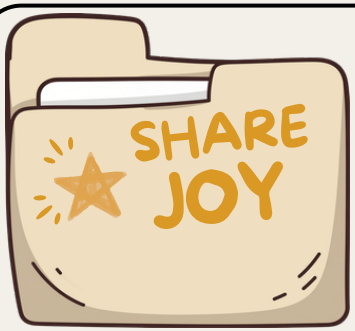
- [ ] **Make helping a group effort.**
  Gather friends, family, neighbors, or coworkers and tackle a community need together.
- [ ] **Connect someone with a cause.**
  Introduce someone to a local organization you care about and tell them why its work matters.
- [ ] **Check in on a neighbor.**
  Offer to lend a hand with a seasonal task—shoveling, carrying packages, putting out decorations, or another small job.

WEEK FOUR: Celebrate Together



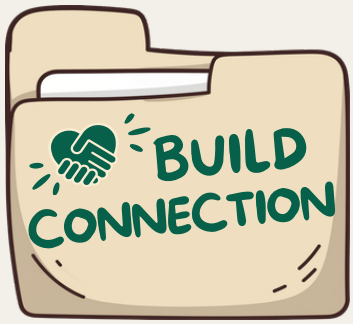
Goal: Do something good.

- [ ] **Make room for one more.**
  Invite someone who might otherwise miss out to join you for a holiday activity or gathering.
- [ ] **Be an Elf in disguise.**
  Quietly lend a hand at a holiday gathering by cleaning up, carrying something, holding a door, or tackling a task without being asked.
- [ ] **Give someone the good spot.**
  Offer someone else the better seat, place in line, parking spot, or view at a busy holiday activity.



Goal: Celebrate McHenry.

- [ ] **Lace up your skates.**
  Enjoy some time on McHenry's outdoor ice rink with family or friends.
- [ ] **Spread some holiday music.**
  Go caroling with family or friends around your neighborhood, downtown, or another community space.
- [ ] **Take in the lights.**
  Walk or drive around McHenry to enjoy holiday displays together.



Goal: Bring people together.

- [ ] **Share a family tradition.**
  Teach someone a holiday recipe, game, song, craft, or activity that's special to your family.
- [ ] **Experience someone else's tradition.**
  Ask someone to share a holiday tradition that's meaningful to them—and join in if you can.
- [ ] **Start a new McHenry tradition.**
  Choose something you enjoyed together this season and decide to make it an annual tradition.





Mission Accomplished? Don't forget your sElfie.

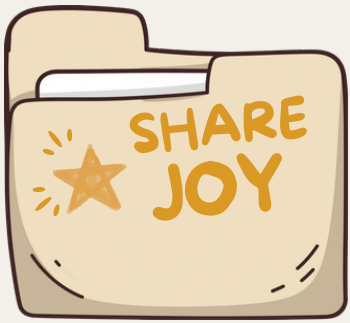
WEEK FIVE:
Carry the Cheer





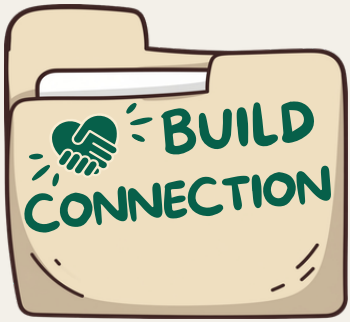
Goal: Do something good.

- [ ] **Take care of your corner of McHenry.**
  Pick up litter, return a stray cart, straighten a shared space, or fix another little thing that needs attention.
- [ ] **Give someone a break.**
  Offer to take over a small responsibility so someone else can have a little time to themselves.
- [ ] **Make it a habit.**
  Choose one small act of kindness you can commit to doing regularly in the new year.



Goal: Celebrate McHenry.

- [ ] **Find your McHenry happy place.**
  Visit a local place that makes you happy and take a little time to enjoy it.
- [ ] **Become a hometown tourist.**
  Choose a McHenry attraction, park, event, store, or experience you've never tried and put it on your list.
- [ ] **Rediscover something you forgot about.**
  Return to a McHenry place or activity you haven't enjoyed in a long time.



Goal: Bring people together.

- [ ] **Put it on the calendar.**
  Instead of saying "we should get together," choose a date and make an actual plan.
- [ ] **Start something worth repeating.**
  Choose something you can do regularly with friends, family, coworkers, or neighbors.
- [ ] **Pass the Elf spirit along.**
  Invite someone else to join you in doing something good for McHenry—even after the holidays are over.

REPORT FOR ELF DUTY!

Stop by Mission Elf Headquarters



Come take your official Elf photo!

Stop by the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce throughout the season and get your official Elf photo.

1307 N. Green Street, McHenry



Psst...little elves can choose a trinket from our treasure chest while they're here!

Special thanks to our community partners for helping us spread holiday cheer across McHenry!

NO LIMIT CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATIONS EST 2025

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