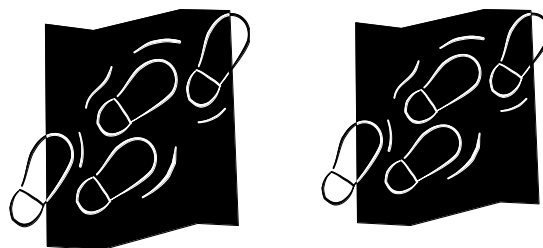


# Franciscan Footsteps

## Mount Alvernia High School



Dear Parents,

During the liturgical season of Advent prior to Christmas, we often speak of God in prayer as “Emmanuel,” or “God with us”. This reminder that God IS still with us is also an invitation to treat others, made in God’s image, with compassion and love. The long school vacation at Christmastime is a great opportunity for students to reach out to others and to complete some community service. So, please encourage your daughter to do some service during her vacation, and to bring in the evaluation form when she returns to school in January. May you and your family have a blessed Christmas, and may we each come to a deeper realization of God’s continuing presence with us and in one another. Merry Christmas! And may God bless each of you!

*S. Julie Franchi*

Sincerely,

*Coordinator of Community Service*

### **Christmas Festival at Mt. Alvernia Academy**

This annual event is Friday, December 4, 12-7:00 pm. After our 11:30 dismissal, student help is needed at Mount Alvernia Academy, Chestnut Hill. Those interested in helping should sign up on the sign up sheet on the Community service bulletin board or call Jodi Kerr at 617.527.7540 X 206.

### **Christmas Tree Sale at MAHS**

Volunteers are needed also December 5 & 6 right here at school. If interested in helping sign up on the sign-up sheets on the board outside of Mrs. Riley’s office on the second floor.

### **South Norfolk County Arc:**

Volunteers are needed to help with a teen winter dance on December 11, 5:15-8:00 pm at 789 Clapboardtree Street, Westwood, MA. The dance is for teens ages 13-22 diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Volunteers must be 16 years-old or older. For more information or to sign up please call Nancy Borr at 781-762-4001 Ext. 412 or email: nborr@sncarc.org

### **Christmas in the City**

This organization provides Christmas gifts, a meal and a huge Christmas party for Boston’s homeless people at the Bayside Expo Center. Help is needed on December 19 to wrap gifts, a volunteer opportunity for students of all ages, and on December 20, the actual Christmas party day, for students 16 or older. For more information see [www.Christmasinthecity.org](http://www.Christmasinthecity.org) or contact Susan Hamilton, mother of one of our 9th grade students who is willing to be the captain of a team of volunteers, at 781-724-1351 or 781-326-7411.

### **Salvation Army’s Parkway Kettle Campaign.**

Help is needed for the Salvation Army’s Kettle Campaign, located at Roche Brothers in West Roxbury between Nov. 23-Dec. 24, 8:00am—8:00pm each day. Sign up to volunteer (in

### **Jimmy Fund**

Mrs. Cloonan, mother of Victoria, needs some student volunteers to help with a Jimmy Fund fundraiser every weekend, both Saturday and Sunday between 10:30 -2:00 pm on Yawkey Way. For more information call her at: 617.643.0131 or 617.462.6671.

<http://www.teenlifeboston.com/>

This great newsletter has many ideas of ways to become involved. Featured currently are:

- Minga, a student run organization aimed at eradicating human trafficking
- Boston Rescue Mission, seeking kitchen volunteers for Dec. 15

It’s definitely worth checking out this site!

### **Christmas presents opportunities to serve:**

Students can get into the Christmas spirit by helping others during the Christmas vacation. They may find ways to help

- By gift wrapping for organizations which seek volunteers
- With parish or community Christmas fairs or events
- At local nursing homes for their Christmas events
- At food pantries by helping to stock shelves, pack groceries or help with paper work.
- With a Toys for Tots program

### **Cradles to Crayons**

This organization, located at 82 Myrtle St., North Quincy, MA 02171 (near the "T") aims to provide children their basic needs so they can be safe, ready to learn and feel valued. Volunteer help is urgently needed! To help with the "Gearing Up For Winter" program contact: Lindsay Jensen: [Lindsay@cradlestocrayons.org](mailto:Lindsay@cradlestocrayons.org), phone: 617-471-8417 X 117. Since helpers are often needed weekday afternoons, this is a great possibility for school vacation for a group.

To volunteer individually call Amanda at X 119 or e-mail [amanda@cradlestocrayons.org](mailto:amanda@cradlestocrayons.org).

Also, check the web: [www.cradlestocrayons.org](http://www.cradlestocrayons.org)

#### **Note:**

- **Younger volunteers must be accompanied by adults.**
- **Registration to volunteer is done only online at least two weeks in advance of volunteering. Register soon!**

### **Newton Parks and Recreation Dept Programs for children and adults with special needs**

Volunteers are needed to help with the ice skating program.

When: Thursdays, 7-8 pm

Location: Fessenden School Rink, Crafts Street  
W. Newton

Dates: Thursdays in December, January and February

For more information contact Mark Kelly at the Newton Parks & Recreation Department 617.796.1527

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**January 5:** Seniors should have completed and turned in evaluations for 15 hours of community service.

**February 23:** Students in grades 8-11 should have completed and turned in evaluations for 15 hours of community service.

*Have a blessed Christmas!*

*Our God, Emmanuel, is with us!*