

# Give

- Linda Fitzpatrick

Now that the hectic holiday season is behind us all, let's take a moment to step back from our lives to recall that not everybody is in the same position as us. It can be difficult to separate ourselves from the advertisements that capture our attention and distract us from the true meaning of the holiday season. Suddenly, wallets have no bottom to them. Shops are constantly selling to happy customers with armfuls of bags. Each gift is bought in hopes of making a family member, friend, or even oneself, joyous.

But, on the special day, in a matter of hours, all the presents are unwrapped from under the tree and tossed back into rooms along with other presents from previous years, right? Every year, precious smiles are expressed while receiving gifts from one another in our homes. In the moment, most of us do not think about other families who may not be as fortunate. Typically, our minds are focused on our own family and the gifts we have received and given. However, I urge everyone to remember that there are families with drastically different lives than the ones we may currently live.

For instance, as news of the recent Nor'Easter started, the first thoughts that I presume came to many of our minds were of what provisions needed to be bought, and what condition the roads would be in. It's tough to remember that these concerns pale in comparison to those of the less fortunate: finding a warm place to take shelter in or providing your family with warm winter clothes to last the night in the treacherous weather.

You see, not everyone is as fortunate as those of us in Marblehead may be; this time of year is crucial for all of us in town to do our part. In fact, all throughout the year it is important to think of others and help out to the best of our abilities. By simply donating an old childhood winter jacket or hat, we could help in changing a life. We all have piles of belongings tucked away in our homes that we may never touch or find use for again. Now is our chance to get rid of them without throwing them away in the trash. Give anything that you may never use again away to someone who may be able to use it now and may not be able to afford it. Whether those items include clothing, appliances, or toys, there is someone out in the world, far from Marblehead, or even next door to your family, who needs them. Rather than watch it collect dust far back in your basement or closet, give it a proper home.

The winter season is one in which awareness for donating becomes raised to another level because of the holidays and weather. We must all take it upon ourselves to take action this year instead of merely listening to the pleas of others. If it were each of our lives, I'm positive we would all want somebody to help you out. Give a coat. Give a dollar to a charity. Give a pair of socks. Give a card game. Give some love. Whatever you choose, give to your acquaintances in life and the energy you put out into the world will come straight back to you in time.