



## **USEP-OHIO PARENT TIP: Teaching Kids to Care**

*This brief Parent Tip is provided at no cost by United Services for Effective Parenting-Ohio, Inc. as a tool to assist parents, teachers, grandparents and all who help to care for and to raise our children. For more information on this and other tools from USEP-OHIO refer to the conclusion of this Parent Tip.*

**Dear Parents, Grandparents, Teachers and Care-givers,**  
When my dad was in his final days with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), my husband and I were visiting him when the thoughtful folks from his church came by to sing Christmas carols for him. He got tears in his eyes, and so did we, as they sang *Joy to the World, Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, and many of the favorite carols he treasured. Since Dad could no longer get out, his friends came to him. That Christmas was his last. I will always treasure the memory, knowing that the beautiful music stirred in him and in all of us, the message of love and the miracle of new life. As we sang *Silent Night* together, we knew that the Spirit of Christmas was present.

Just as Dad was touched and sang along with *Silent Night* as tears spilled down his cheeks – the elderly, ill, and lonely in your community and neighbors who have lost loved ones, will so appreciate having YOUR visit as you remind them they are cared for and not forgotten.

**I hope that many of us, of all ages, will join in visiting neighbors and shut-ins who can no longer get out. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or just the winter season – however you celebrate – plan to take the children in your care to experience the joy of bringing a message of love to**

**those near you who cannot get out to visit and to celebrate with others around them.**

***Please allow the children in you life, your family, your class to reach out with brotherhood and generosity, teaching them how to care for others. The power of this simple act of love is one of the most enriching experiences we can offer our children. We give them the gift of knowing that they are needed, and powerful in others' lives by simply reaching out with love and attention. We offer children unforgettable joy and satisfaction as they realize that giving is even better than getting!***

- ✓ Draw pictures or take cookies to shut-ins or those who are ill or send to service members.
- ✓ Collect toys or art supplies for needy children nearby or far away.
- ✓ Participate in the local hunger drive or holiday giving.
- ✓ Visit elderly or the shut-ins in the neighborhood or the local nursing home.
- ✓ Make handmade crafts for siblings and other family members

***We invite you to share this USEP-OHIO publication with other parents, students and professionals at home or work. You have permission to copy Tips as written, send on as email, or print for a newsletter or handout. Email [usepohio@usepohio.com](mailto:usepohio@usepohio.com) or call 1-800-262-4KIDS to add email addresses to our list, to give us feedback about how the information works for you, or for other topics, publications and programs.***