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Get Plum Pudding Glow!

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A LONG WITH THE WARMTH of a steaming plum pudding or a twinkling Christmas candle comes the glow you feel after doing something for someone else—especially if that someone is less fortunate than you.

Many Iowa State students enjoy this satisfaction of Christmas giving each year.

For instance, last year members of Delta Delta Delta sorority and Kappa Sigma fraternity entertained 20 orphans from the Lutheran home in Ames at a Christmas carnival party. Instead of buying individual gifts for their young guests, they collected enough money to buy a shuffleboard set for the home.

After eating dinner at the fraternity house, the children proceeded to the streamer-and-balloon-decked basement to test their skills at the individual carnival booths. Cupie dolls and other prizes were awarded at each stand for rubber-ringing the milk bottle or hitting a bull’s-eye on the dart board. The group then sang Christmas carols, with the young guests themselves leading the songs. Before saying goodnight, each child was given a candy cane and a popcorn ball from underneat h the brightly lighted Christmas tree.

The Kappa Deltas, along with members of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, entertained a group of 20 to 30 underprivileged youngsters from Ames at a party also. Their house was decorated in typical Christmas fashion with pine boughs and a large tree. The men provided transportation for their guests. This party featured a jolly Santa Claus who talked to each child and gave him or her a present, such as a rubber tractor or a small doll. The hosts remember one time when Santa was being his usual laughing self, and his pillows started to slip! This, of course, caused both wondering and laughter on the part of the children.

Peppermint favors

The Pi Beta Phis gave a similar party last year. In addition to little peppermint stick favors, each guest was given a badly needed article of clothing and a toy. After dessert, the children sang, played hide-and-seek, went on a candy treasure hunt and assembled puzzles. The hostesses made the puzzles themselves by cutting interesting pictures out of magazines, pasting them on cardboard, and snipping them into many irregular puzzle pieces.

Roberts Hall was among the several women's dormitories that made Christmas brighter for orphans in different Iowa homes. Last year, each resident bought a small gift for a child, wrapped it attractively and placed it under the large dormitory tree. Those who bought presents indicated on the package the sex and age group for which her gift was suitable. After students had gone home for vacation, the presents were distributed to various orphans' homes throughout the state.

Worship and fun

Throughout the school year, a group of students goes to Woodward State Hospital, institution for the feeble-minded, on Sunday afternoons to conduct worship services and programs for the people who live there. Before Christmas vacation, the group usually presents a special program of worship and fun. Last year, a Santa Claus passed out about 150 inexpensive presents and candy, and a magician put on a special act, in addition to the worship service. Christmas carols were sung, too, and, according to John Veldhuizen, present chairman of the project, this is one of the things they enjoy the most.

Most of these projects have now become annual affairs, because of their popularity with both the people who are giving and those receiving. Why not organize and carry out an idea of your own?

Get Plum Pudding Glow!

For several years, residents of Oak Hall have contributed money to buy special therapeutic toys or bathrobes for children at Blank Memorial Hospital in Des Moines. The money they contribute is sent to the Hospital Women’s Guild, and in turn is spent by the physical therapists for gifts which are best-suited or considered most beneficial to each child’s needs. When the child leaves the hospital, he may choose whether he wants to keep the present for himself or contribute it to the playroom to help other sick children.

A needy family

The women in Elm Hall have supported a needy family in Ames at Christmas time. They give the parents money, the children little bags of toys, and the whole family a big Christmas tree to make their holiday season a little happier than it might otherwise be.

There are so many ways you can wish the unfortunate a Merry Christmas; all you need is a warm heart and a little imagination. Look what others have done! And why limit this giving to Christmas time alone?