



# GREAT IDEAS

## for the Holidays and 2004

For HOSA members, the holiday season is a time to celebrate the joy of HOSA partnerships, and the opportunity to serve people in the community. HOSA is about caring and compassion, and there's no better time than the holiday season to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Of course, the good things you do can continue beyond the holiday season. Commit now to make 2004 a year to share the best that HOSA offers with those around you.



**Holiday Essay** Sponsor an essay contest for a local elementary or middle school. Select a topic such as "How to Have a Healthy Holiday." HOSA members can judge the essays using the Extemporaneous Writing rating sheet, and the HOSA Chapter can then award cash prizes to the winners.

**Giving Thanks** Have HOSA members send holiday greeting cards to community partners who support the HOSA chapter, such as the local rescue squad, clinical sites, town newspaper, etc. Be sure to include handwritten remarks sharing the gratitude of your HOSA chapter for the service provided by the card recipient.

**Sponsor a Family** Work with family services or the health department to provide a holiday dinner to a family in need. Collect or donate food to deliver on a special day.

**Food Bank** Contact the food bank in your state for details about their location and needs. Then collect non-perishable food items from the students and staff in your school. Schedule a date to deliver the donation to the food bank.

**Holiday Babysitting** HOSA members can sponsor an evening or Saturday of free babysitting for children of school faculty members. This will give teachers an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, or simply get some long overdue rest before the inevitable "rush" of the holiday season.

**Nursing Home Gifts** Sponsor a craft evening where HOSA members come together, eat pizza, and make gifts for the elderly. Then, deliver the gifts to a local nursing home and visit the residents to provide some holiday cheer.

**Pie Sale** Contact a local bakery and arrange to take orders for holiday pies. Make sure your chapter receives a designated amount of money for each pie sold. Develop a plan for delivering the pies to your customers who can enjoy them during the holidays.

**The Gift of Life** As part of this very special student-parent activity, HOSA members all donate blood at a nearby bloodmobile and then meet for dinner afterwards to celebrate their donation and each other.

**Make a Difference** The holiday season often brings DAYS OFF for HOSA members. Why not use some of your free time to provide volunteer service in your community? HOSA members can use the service hours for recognition through the Barbara James Service Award, but best of all, HOSA members can make a difference to those in need.

