



FAQs - Giving Tree 2019

What is Giving Tree?

Giving Tree is designed to replace Secret Santa in the office, so instead of buying your co-workers a gift, you buy present for a child in refuge.

How does it work?

1. Sign up at www.kidsout.org.uk to **order Giving Tree tags for your office**
2. KidsOut will send you tags with a child's name, age, and suggested toy for you to **hang up on your office Christmas Tree**
3. Encourage your colleagues to **take a tag and buy the gift**
4. Collect the gifts from your office and **deliver them to your nearest collection point**
5. **KidsOut will collect the toys** from the collection point and distribute them to children in refuge

Who will benefit from the gift I buy?

Gifts donated through the Giving Tree will be distributed to Children living in refuge over the festive season. Without Giving Tree, these children may not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas. KidsOut is the only charity working with every Women's Aid Federation refuge in the UK, along with many other local refuges and children's groups. Every year, an average of 20,000 children in the UK flee domestic violence to a Women's refuge with their mothers, with 8,000 being rehomed in a new and unfamiliar area. According to Women's Aid statistics, over 50% have personally suffered serious abuse. This is a very disruptive time for families; children in particular are often traumatised and affected deeply by having to move away from their friends and family. Refuges and other domestic abuse services rarely have the capacity to provide normal social and educational opportunities for these children. As a result, children are left with little to look forward to and can feel excluded from their peers. Furthermore, children who have experienced domestic abuse are more likely to have been exposed to other risks, such as neglect, parental substance misuse and mental health issues. Without intervention, only 26% of children relocated won't have turned to drugs or crime by the age of 18. However, with direct support from groups like KidsOut, 86% will not.

What is a collection point?

Collection Points are companies/organizations who offer storage space for nearby companies to drop their Giving Tree toys. This helps to condense the number of collections needing to be made by KidsOut. Any organization or company can offer to be a Collection Point and it is a great way to become more involved with KidsOut and help to provide more toys for disadvantaged children across the UK.

How do I find my nearest collection point?

You will be informed as to where your nearest collection point is by a KidsOut representative by December. We will contact you via the details you providing when registering for tags. If any of these contact details change or are no



longer correct, please contact KidsOut ASAP. In the unlikely event you don't hear from a KidsOut staff member closer to the drop off deadline, get in touch and we will be happy to direct you to your nearest collection point.

What's the deadline for registering for Giving Tree?

Deadline for Giving Tree registration is mid-November (exact date TBC, check KidsOut's website and social media channels for updates). HOWEVER, we recommend registering as early as possible, as we receive a huge amount of sign-ups closer to the deadline and this can delay the delivery of tags.

When will I receive the tags?

We aim to deliver the tags from late October but if they're needed earlier we are happy to make arrangements.

When should I deliver the gifts to the Collection Points?

The presents will need to be delivered to your nearest Collection Point by 13thth December at the very latest. HOWEVER, specific deadlines may vary depending on your collection point so please contact them first.

Will there be a cost to my business?

There's no cost to your business, we don't charge a sign-up fee.

Are the names and toys requests real?

All the names on the tags have been anonymised for safeguarding reasons. The toys that are on the tags are the most popular toys that have been asked for by children in refuge. KidsOut prioritises the selection of toys that are beneficial for social, educational, and emotional development.

How much should I spend on my gift?

KidsOut recommends spending between £5 and £10 per gift. However, KidsOut is happy if you want to spend more on a bigger gift. Larger items will often be used in a refuge's communal play room for the children to share over Christmas.

Should I wrap the presents?

All presents received will need to be checked by refuge staff before being distributed to children. As a result, any gift wrapping will be removed so please don't wrap any presents. We will still accept presents that have been wrapped.

What if I can't deliver my gift to a Collection Point in time?

Our Christmas period runs through to January, due to the increase of women and children fleeing to refuge after Christmas. We invite companies to send us any extra toys collected after the deadline directly to the KidsOut office where they can be directly distributed to the refuges. If there are lots of toys collected by your company after the deadline we may be able to make arrangements to collect them from you after Christmas.

Please email any other questions to givingtree@kidsout.org.uk or call 01525 385252.