

Alternative Advent

By Erin Davis Gibbons



Kids create an alternative advent calendar to benefit a charitable organization in their town. Instead of just opening boxes on an Advent calendar or moving Santa from one slot to the next, use Advent as a time to collect donations or goods for a local charitable organization.

For
Teen Family

Season

Winter

Needed

Boxes, paper, markers, decoration supplies

Activity Plan

1. Do some quick research on local charitable organizations and decide which one your family might be able to support. You could choose a Christmas-themed program like Operation Christmas Child, or you could simply support by collecting donations for your local food pantry, Goodwill, or Salvation Army.
2. Decide whether your family will collect donations (coins, bills, or checks), or items. Collect 25 boxes large enough for your donation of choice. For example, if you're collecting coins, you could just have 25 small coin boxes. If you're collecting canned foods, you might need something larger like shoeboxes.
3. Find a space large enough for your 25 boxes, and set them out. Number them from 1-25. Create a sign showing what your advent donations are going toward. Decorate the boxes, too, if you have time.
4. Each day during advent, encourage each family member to place one item in the box. Ask friends and extended family members to donate too! Say a prayer together each day over your advent collection.
5. After Christmas, drop off your donations. Post pictures of your Advent collection and share your story on [Vibrant Faith @ Home](https://www.vibrantfaithathome.org).