



What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Reverse advent calendars work by you filling them every day with items of food or clothing that can then be taken to a food bank or charity in order to help those less fortunate that are struggling at Christmas time.

After gathering helpful items all month, you can take everything you've saved to your local help scheme on Christmas Eve and know that you've given a Christmas present to someone that really needed it.

Not only is this a fun thing for the whole family to do together, from creating the advent calendar structure itself to picking the goodies to go in it, it more importantly teaches your kids the importance of helping others and seeing the bigger picture at Christmas.

What do we collect for our Reverse Advent Calendar?

Different charities will ask for different kinds of contributions, but here are some suggestions to fill your reverse advent calendar:

Dolls, teddy bears, toys, games or puzzles

Pencils, crayons, paper, coloring and activity books

Hats, gloves, scarves

Toiletries – toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine products

Baby clothes, diapers, bottles

T shirts, underwear, socks

Bath towels, hand towels, blankets

Pop-top/easy-to-open foods such as fruit, tuna, beans, pudding, etc.

Individually packaged crackers, cookies, chocolate, sweet snacks, etc.

Bottles of water or juice



How do we put together our Reverse Advent Calendar?

Step 1: Choose an organization to receive your donations. See the ideas below. You may want to contact the organization to see if they have specific needs.

Step 2: Every day choose something from your own supplies or from a store with your family to donate to your reverse advent calendar.

Step 4:

A few days before or after Christmas, take your offerings as a family to your chosen organization.

Who should receive our Reverse Advent Calendar?



There are many deserving organizations and people, but here is a possible list.

- Home At Last
- First Christian Church's Food Pantry
- Family Promise
- C Carter Crane Shelter ^{[[SEP]]}
- The Salvation Army
- Marie Detty Youth & Family Services
- New Directions Domestic Violence Shelter
- Pet Rescue: Wee Benji Come Home, Rainbow Bridge Can Wait, Lawton Humane Society
- Armed Services YMCA or Veteran's Center ^{[[SEP]]}
- A school, library, daycare center or retirement community ^{[[SEP]]}
- A family, elderly neighbor, or friend in need