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New Children's Christmas Book Teaches Kids to be Generous 12.01.06

For some (okay, let's admit it, most) kids, the holidays are all about "me, me, me." "Buy me this [toy](#)." "Get me that doll." "Camp out overnight at the store so I can get that \$600 [video game](#)." But a new author is posing a radical question: Why not use the holidays to teach your children to think about others?

Marcia Stankard, a stay-at-home mother of three, is the author of *The Spritelees: A Christmas Tale About Kindness*. In this 32-page hardcover, the Spritelees, (Bob, Tess, Rain, Penni, Flash, Zing and Vissy) band together to

save Christmas when Santa's elves come down with the flu. The story teaches charity and selflessness via likable characters, a unique storyline and adorable illustrations.

However, the message isn't necessarily "save the world." The book encourages children to participate in smaller good deeds as well, with the idea that these can have an impact too. Stankard believes that teaching your kids generosity while they're young can have an important effect on them in the future. "Just as a well-balanced diet in the early years helps children's bodies to develop healthfully, so too does encouraging a child's social/emotional relationship to giving and philanthropy in the early years impact their charitable impulses in later life," she notes in the [press release](#). "We need to model constructive ways for our children to act with intentional kindness, strengthening their instincts to help others. There's no time like childhood to celebrate the importance of a small kind deed or gesture."

The Spritelees: A Christmas Tale About Kindness is designed for children ages 2 through 5 (if read with an adult), or 5 through 8 (if read alone). It has a retail price of \$16. Ordering instructions can be found at the official [Spritelees website](#). (The book can also be purchased at [Amazon](#).) Some of the proceeds will go towards children's [brain tumor](#) research. The next book in The Spritelees series will be released in the spring, and money raised from that will [help children with autism](#).

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