

'Tis the season for giving

Stores are bustling, and letters to Santa are flowing. With just more than a handful of weeks to find the perfect Christmas gifts, 'tis the season to give.

As you hunt for that special item for a friend or loved one, don't forget about sharing goodwill toward all this holiday season.

While this year's hot-ticket items already are vanishing from store shelves, there are still plenty of opportunities to give a truly special gift. Several upcoming events offer chances to give back to the community.

By joining in one of the many fundraising events on tap during this holiday season, you can help open opportunities for others and give yourself a boost from knowing you've done something good.

The theme of this year's Palates & Pâté presented by IberiaBank was "Together we

can restore many more shattered lives." Palates & Pâté recently held its annual fundraising event for Acadiana Outreach

Center at the Cajundome Convention Center. To find out more about the annual event and how you can still help, see page 12.

Acadiana Youth Inc.'s annual Festival of Trees fundraiser continues through Nov. 16 at the City Club at River Ranch. The nonprofit group runs three youth shelters in Lafayette. A glorious holiday gala will conclude the three days of events. For more on the Festival of Trees, see page 17.



Still ahead, the 10th annual fundraiser for the Lafayette Community Healthcare Clinic, which provides medical, dental and pharmaceutical care for uninsured workers, is set for Dec. 5.

This year's Silver Bell Soiree will showcase a New York City theme, complete with landmark New York shops. See more on this event on page 14.

While you are finishing your Christmas shopping and making Mardi Gras plans, don't forget to take time to smell the savory local culinary creations, too. Patricia Gannon features Executive Chef Holly Goetting of Charley G's in this month's Scene Cuisine. See page 44.

Columnist Stuart Gonsuron offers the inside scoop on a versatile ingredient that helps pull everything together in a dish. Read more about cooking with mushrooms on page 42.

Is your curiosity piqued about all that's going on in downtown Lafayette lately? Take a tour of the new Juliet Boutique Hotel on page 20 of this month's edition.

As the social season kicks into high gear, see who's been stepping out and wearing what. Patricia Gannon discusses the resurgence of old Hollywood glamour in her column on page 46.

Did we catch you out on the town? See who you know in this month's party pages beginning on page 47.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendar so you won't miss a thing during this festive season. Update your datebook with Save the Date on page 62.

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