



# HUNTER:

DIVERSITY IN ACTION NEWSLETTER

# DECEMBER

**CELEBRATING WINTER HOLIDAYS!**

Welcome to the end of 2022! Along with joyous gatherings, the end of the year is full of opportunities for connecting with others and reflecting on all that's happened. Whether you're participating in holiday traditions or getting some well-deserved rest, we invite you to practice community care to bring a sense of belonging and love to family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, group members, and others you interact with on a regular basis.

In this issue of the Diversity in Action Newsletter, you can find different ways HUNTERs practice community care, from sharing different holiday celebrations to giving time to a good cause.

Happy Holidays!

# DEI TIP OF THE MONTH

## WINTER HOLIDAY DATES

As the year comes to a close, keep in mind these dates as your friends, colleagues, and neighbors may be participating in celebrations.

**Winter Solstice** – Wednesday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

**Hannukah** – Sunday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> (Sundown) through Monday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas** – *Eve*, Saturday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and *Day*, Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>

**Kwanzaa** – Monday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>



## WORK THAT MATTERS



On December 2nd, HUNTERs spent their morning boxing up sweet treats and writing thank you cards in support of [Cookies for Kids' Cancer](#), a non-profit organization aimed at raising funds for research to find less toxic and more effective treatments for childhood cancers. They were joined by co-founder Gretchen Holt Witt, who spoke to the volunteers about how her young son Liam's battle with neuroblastoma inspired her to create a movement that has granted over \$5 million to childhood cancer research. HUNTER Giselle Flores said, "I'm grateful that HUNTER was able to participate and take our CARING HARDER & ALWAYS HUNTING attitude to help a great cause!"

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

For Christmas, I come from a Hispanic household, so we celebrate starting on Christmas Eve. To prepare for that day, we buy new clothes (they must be new), prepare dinner together as a family, and eat around 11 pm so that we can start celebrating Christmas at midnight sharp. Before eating, we gather around the nativity scene, pray, and sing Christmas songs together. That's something we do every day for 9 days before Christmas Eve to commemorate the birth of Jesus - it is called the Novena. At 12 am we place baby Jesus in the nativity scene (since his crib had been empty during the whole month) and then we give each other gifts. After that we dance, eat, and have fun until we are tired - usually by dawn.



Marian Cuestas, Account Coordinator



On New Year's Eve, we also wear something completely new and have dinner together right before midnight. Once the clock marks 12, we toast and eat 12 grapes (each one represents one month of the year) while we make 12 wishes. After that, we all take empty suitcases and run around the block - this is a Colombian tradition that represents our travels in the new year. Once that's done, we burn the "Año Viejo" doll, which is basically a stuffed doll we make out of old clothes on December 31st. Then we party until dawn!



Peri Steiny, Media + Entertainment Director

To incorporate my brother-in-law's Swedish heritage into our holiday celebrations, we do an extra special celebration on Christmas Eve (the day the Swedish typically have their main Christmas celebrations) with a drink of Glögg, a spiced mulled wine or spirit – a traditional Nordic drink during winter, especially around Christmas. Skål!

## RESOURCES

This month, there are many cultures celebrating their holidays from the observance of perseverance in Hannukah to the reverence of culture in Kwanzaa. Below are some resources so you can become more familiar with these holiday celebrations.

### **Hannukah**

[The Story of Hannukah | My Jewish Learning](#)  
[Hannukah Traditions | The Reader's Digest](#)

### **Kwanzaa**

[Origins of Kwanzaa | National Museum of African American History & Culture](#)  
[The History, Principles, and Symbols of Kwanzaa | InterExchange](#)