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Open the gift of Christmas

Chicken Soup for the Soul celebrates the most wonderful time of the year

COS COB, Conn. – Alan Williamson thought he'd figured out the perfect system for stringing icicle lights thanks to a neighbor. But when it came time to plug them in after two hours of meticulously hanging them on his house, he realized the plug was on the wrong end of the strands. Jan Bono hoped to teach the little girl she babysat about Santa's reindeer with her new deer coloring book. But when she asked if Kendra could name Santa's reindeer, Kendra thought she meant to give the deer an actual name. So Kendra named the deer "Josephine." The Christmas season is filled with funny moments, and in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas*, readers will find plenty of amusing situations to help them through their holidays.

In *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas* (Chicken Soup for the Soul, October 9, 2012, ISBN 13: 978-1-61159-901-5, \$14.95), readers will find joy and inspiration through stories of Christmas miracles, family traditions, the joy of giving, the wonder of children and much more. Jennie Ivey wouldn't hear of it when her mother proposed skipping Christmas dinner since her driveway was covered in black ice. Instead, Jennie, her husband and their son James headed over to Grandma's to pick her up, but weren't quite sure how they'd get her down the driveway to the car. James had a great idea—using a laundry basket as a makeshift sled, they slid Grandma down the driveway with James wearing his baseball cleats to use as brakes.

Gift giving can be a challenge no matter whom you shop for. One year, Courtney Conover and her husband Scott, a former offensive tackle for the Detroit Lions, decided to have a contest to see which one of them could spend the closest to \$77.77, in honor of their anniversary date of 7/7/07, on their gifts for each other. Courtney put a lot of thought into it and presented Scott, who is a brandy aficionado, with a book about brandy and a Tiffany snifter. But Scott gave her a shadow box filled with her most prized pair of track spikes from high school, a frame containing carefully selected photos of her high school track team days, and a receipt for almost exactly the right price. She says that while he won the contest by spending the closest to \$77.77, she was really the winner, since having husband that thoughtful was the best gift of all.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas is a special edition for readers because Chicken Soup for the Soul included 121 stories instead of their normal 101 in the book, but at the usual price. This extra-thick book will make a wonderful gift for anyone, whether they are already filled with holiday spirit or looking for a little pre-holiday boost. Movie fans will appreciate the chapter titles, taken from movies, but often with a twist, such as A Few Good Elves, Good Gift Hunting, and Close Encounters of the Santa Kind. A special benefit for parents and grandparents—since Chicken Soup for the Soul wants to keep Christmas magical for everyone, all the stories are "Santa-safe" for kids!

Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Amy Newmark) releases on Oct. 9, 2012. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which is distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. In 2007, *USA Today* named Chicken Soup for the Soul one of the five most memorable books in the last quarter century. Since 1993, more than 100 million books in the series have been sold in the United States and Canada alone. Chicken Soup for the Soul titles have been sold in more than 100 additional countries and translated into more than 40 languages. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, including TV shows and a major motion picture, and is also developing a digital presence for life improvement, emotional support, inspiration, and wellness. Chicken Soup for the Soul Foods, a joint venture with Daymon Worldwide Inc., will start rolling out its line of delicious, nutritious comfort foods in early 2013. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous brand to high-quality licensees. For more information visit www.chickensoup.com.

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To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas* or to request an interview, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or shelby@sheltoninteractive.com