

# The Joy of Giving

Have fun and do good at the Journey into Christmas festival

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**Sergei Vedyashkin / Moskva News Agency**

Moscow's biggest seasonal festival, Journey into Christmas, kicked off in an explosion of twinkling lights and fir trees. But it's not all about buying and being entertained — it's about giving back to the community, too. The Moscow Times is here to give you a rundown of some of the best family-friendly events that will allow you and the kids to get ready for Christmas while helping those in need.

## **Make toys on Tverskoi Bulvar**

On Dec. 27 and Jan. 9, join Russian Birch, a charity that assists large families, single elderly people and people with disabilities. You and your family can take part in a master class on making soft toys and dolls. From 3 to 7 p.m.

### **Make something for Fido on Tverskoi Bulvar**

On Dec. 26, join Paws of Friendship, a charity that cares for homeless animals and raises awareness of their plight. Your kids can learn how to draw dogs -- and put their drawings in a contest -- make collars and tree ornaments, and chat with founders Ekaterina Zubenko and Marina Kashira. From 3 to 7 p.m.

### **Get glamorous on Ploshchad Revolyutsii**

On Dec. 25, join Life, a foundation supporting seriously ill children from disadvantaged families, for a master class with acclaimed Russian designer Marina Getmanenko where you'll learn how to make jewellery and décor items to give to your friends and family this festive season. From 3 to 7 p.m.

### **Make a candle on Tverskoi Bulvar**

On Dec. 28, join children's hospice Lighthouse for a masterclass on candle making and decorating. From 3 to 7 p.m.

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