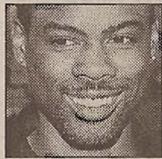


Five stars tell how and why they give back

The holidays mean time for tinsel, trees and charity. Five stars reveal their favorite causes and what they do to help.



Chris Rock

Causes: The Salvation Army and Safe Horizon, which provides support to abuse victims

Activities: Rock and his wife, Malaak Compton Rock, along with the stars of his CW sitcom,

Everybody Hates Chris, hosted a shopping party at Brooklyn's Target and a screening of the show for at-risk children Dec. 8.

Why they're involved: "When I was a kid, my grandmother and my dad had me in the Salvation Army after-school program and the Salvation Army summer camp. Now, I try to help," Rock says. His wife adds: "It's so important for these children to know they're worth it."

Online at: salvationarmyusa.org and safehorizon.org



Adrian Grenier

Cause: America's Second Harvest

Activities: The *Entourage* actor volunteered in Brooklyn's Neighbors Together Soup Kitchen on Friday.

Why he's involved: "When I heard about the food shortage and the impact it is having on food banks and soup kitchens in communities all over the country, and especially here in Brooklyn, I wanted to help in whatever way I could."

Online at: secondharvest.org



Eva Mendes

Cause: The Art of Elysium, which pairs musicians, actors and artists with sick children

Activities: Mendes volunteers regularly.

Why she's involved: "Joaquin Phoenix introduced me to this charity. Spending time with these children has enriched my life in so many ways. It's not just about writing a check, it's about human connection. It's not about any kind of public recognition, it's really about the children, being there with them, reading to them, singing to them, or my favorite — finger-painting with them."

Online at: theartofelysium.org



Lisa Kudrow

Cause: P.S. Arts, which aims to restore arts education in California public schools

Activities: Now a board member, Kudrow got involved through acquaintance Laurie David, producer of *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Why she's involved: "It's a great organization, and as I learned about it, I just think it's really important on so many levels. There's so much to address. It's beyond schools. You need parents who are involved and who care and who make sure their kids do their homework."

Online at: psarts.org



Casey Affleck

Cause: PETA

Activities: Golden Globe nominee and longtime vegan Affleck can be spotted in the animal rights group's PSAs.

Why he's involved: "I'm a vegan, and it's just a matter of how I live my own life. I got involved because it was a group that my wife (Summer Phoenix) was involved with, and she dragged me into it."

Online at: peta.org

Compiled by Donna Freydkin

Rock by Getty Images; Grenier, Mendes, Kudrow and Affleck by AP