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Sometimes you have to wear the tree

GETTING PEOPLE TO GIVE TAKES CREATIVITY

BY CARRIE COPPERNOLL

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Nita McCord, dressed as a Christmas tree, receives a donation from Scott Schaefer. PHOTO BY CHRIS LANDSBERGER, THE OKLAHOMAN

[Nita McCord](#) put on a Christmas tree Monday and walked around the office.

It's not as weird as it sounds. She had a good reason.

McCord, who works at [Pro-Fab Inc.](#) in far [west Oklahoma City](#), was collecting money and toys to help men at the First Step recovery center give Christmas presents to their children.

Most of the men in the six-month drug and alcohol addiction recovery program can't afford to buy their children gifts this year because they are focusing on becoming well,

McCord said. She hopes providing the men with children's gifts will help ease the stress of the holidays.

She knew her co-workers would be willing to help, but she had to come up with a good strategy. About 94 percent of Pro-Fab employees are men, so she had no delusions about them all taking the children's names off the gift tree, shopping on their own and coming back with enough [Dora the Explorer dolls](#) to please every kid in town.

She had to be proactive.

"I figured if the guys won't come to the tree," she said, "the tree's got to come out to the guys."

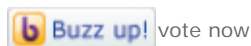
So, she fashioned her own tree costume. The ladies at Heart and Hands Thrift Store gave her a puffy slip to give her tree a little more bulk.

McCord tacked on the gift cards from the real tree and paraded around the 150,000-square-foot manufacturing shop, asking for donations.

Employees have donated about \$300 so far, plus several toys. McCord plans to collect money through Friday and then go shopping. Heart and Hands Thrift donated fun wrapping paper, too.

Wearing a Christmas tree works.

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I am Nita, and I want to update everyone. The true heros of this story are the people who reached into their own pockets and hearts - Pro-Fab employees! As of this morning we have almost \$450 collected and several gifts under our real Angel Tree. Pro-Fab is not only a great place to work, Pro-Fab is a working family of machinists, engineers, and support staff who have united in a cause beyond our daily labor to help those who are trying to help themselves. The other heros of this story -- those seeking recovery from their addictions at First Step. I'm just the blonde whose silly enough to play at being an "Angel" tree. Truth be known my halo fell off a long time ago -

Nita - Dec 11, 2008 at 8:26 AM

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