Christmas isn’t Always the Happiest Time of Year.

Every year, on the 25th of December, thousands of families celebrate Christmas but sadly for some, Christmas is no different to their day to day life. They still have to sleep on the streets, look after ill members of family, or struggle for food. We all take for granted amazing gifts, the fantastic dinner and all the joy that comes with it, whereas some children don’t even get these things. These children don’t get a Christmas tree covered in baubles and tinsel, the biggest presents they can ask for is food, shelter and warmth. Some children spend their Christmas on the streets of big cities, begging for money so they can afford the little things in life that we don’t even think about. Although Christmas is a time for joy, it’s also a time to think of others who may not have as much as you.

Young carers looking after ill or disabled parents, might not even think about Christmas because they are too busy looking after a member of their family. Some homeless children on the street are too worried about finding a blanket to keep them warm, they don’t even acknowledge that it’s the festive time of year. Many children suffering in Africa aren’t interested in Christmas because their one wish is just to get some clean water or somewhere safe to sleep. Elderly men and women up and down the country will be alone this Christmas, with no one to celebrate with. Think about the young people living in such poverty, or who are being abused, and can’t enjoy the merriment that we all expect every year.

Christmas is a time for giving, so when you’re sitting on Christmas Eve enjoying mulled wine or watching a Christmas classic like Home Alone or Elf, think of the families that won’t be taking part in the celebration and excitement that is Christmas.

Statistics show that –

- An estimated 783 million people in the world will not have access, to clean healthy water this Christmas.
- On average, in England, 498 people sleep rough each night, and that does not exclude Christmas.
- In the UK, there is estimated to be around 700,000 young carers looking after disabled, mentally ill, or extremely ill members of family.

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