



December 2025

DECEMBER MOMENTS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

December is a special month in every Mark Dana community. The days feel shorter, the air gets colder, and many of us find ourselves spending more time at home. Even though winter can be chilly, this season brings many chances to slow down, enjoy simple moments, and feel connected to the those around us.

One of the nicest things about December is that it invites us to enjoy the little things. A warm cup of cocoa, the sound of a favorite holiday song, or the glow of lights in a window can make our day brighter. Families may enjoy

cooking a warm meal together or watching a classic movie at home. Seniors might enjoy sitting with a good book or looking through old photos that bring back happy memories. Kids often love crafting, drawing, or helping decorate the home. These small activities make the season feel cozy and full of joy.

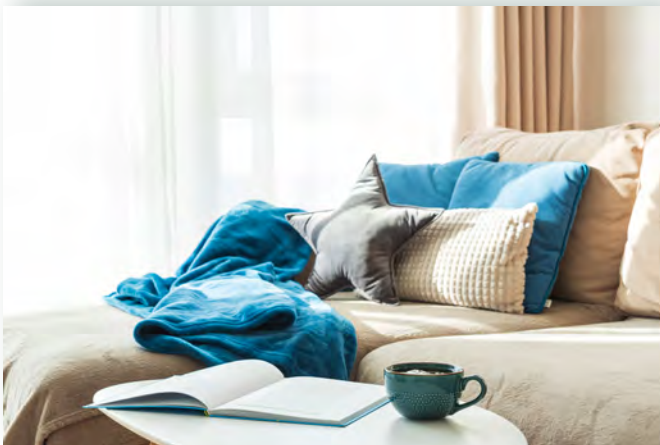
December is also a time when many people like to show kindness. A simple wave to a neighbor, holding the door for someone who has their hands full, or checking on a friend who lives alone can make a big difference. Even the smallest acts can help our communities feel warm, safe, and welcoming. You never know how much a kind word or a friendly smile might mean to someone during this time of year.

Another special part of December is the feeling of togetherness. Even

though all of our Mark Dana communities are in different parts of Virginia, we all share the same wish for a peaceful and joyful season. Some of us celebrate holidays, while others simply enjoy the quiet calm that winter brings. No matter how you spend the month, we hope you feel supported, connected, and at home.

As we wrap up another year, we encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the good things—big or small—that happened over the past twelve months. December gives us a chance to start fresh, look forward to a new year, and celebrate the strength of our communities.

From all of us at Mark Dana, we wish you a warm, safe, and happy December filled with comfort, kindness, and moments that make you smile.



BROWN SUGAR BANANA HOT CHOCOLATE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups Milk (any type)
- 1 cup Heavy Cream
- 1 medium ripe Banana
- 2 Tbsp Brown Sugar
- 1 Tbsp Cocoa Powder
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1/2 cup Chocolate Chips
- 1/2 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extra
- Pinch of Salt

DIRECTIONS:

1. BLEND THE BANANA BASE

In a blender, combine the banana, milk, and brown sugar. Blend until smooth.

2. HEAT THE MIXTURE

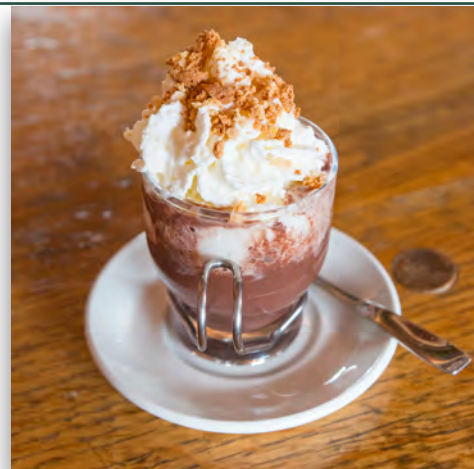
Pour the blended mixture into a medium saucepan. Add the heavy cream, cocoa powder, cinnamon, and salt. Warm over medium heat until hot but not boiling.

3. ADD THE CHOCOLATE

Stir in the chocolate chips until fully melted and the drink becomes creamy and smooth.

4. FINISH AND SERVE

Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla extract.. Pour into mugs and top with whipped cream and extra chocolate or cookie crumbs if desired.



HOT CHOCOLATE WORD FIND

BEVERAGE
PEPPERMINT
CANDY CANE
SPRINKLES
CHOCOLATE
DELICIOUS
SUGAR
CREAM
MILK
HOT



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GROTTOES MANOR

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DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| | 1 Rent Due | 2 Pest Control | 3 | 4 BINGO 10:00 am at 721 C Building | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | 8 | 9 | 10 Late Notices at 10:00 am | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Hanukkah begins at sundown | 15 | 16 | 17 Holiday Dinner & Santa Visit 6:00 pm at 721 C Building | 18 Office Closed | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Winter Begins | 22 | 23 | 24 Office Closed Christmas Eve | 25 Office Closed Christmas Day | 26 Office Closed Kwanzaa Begins | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Years Eve | | | |

COMMUNITY CORNER

- ▶ Happy Holidays to all!
- ▶ A friendly reminder that rent is due on the 1st of the month. To avoid a late fee or court cost, be sure your rent and water are paid before 10:00 a.m. on the 10th. If you pay with your credit or debit card, include the \$5 fee.
- ▶ Pest control comes on the first Tuesday of each month; this month, the exterminator will be coming on December 2nd.
- ▶ We will be having BINGO on Thursday, December 4th, at 10:00 am in the Community Room in 721 C Building for all those who would like to attend.
- ▶ We will be having a Holiday Dinner and Santa visit on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 pm in the Community Room at 721 C Building. There is a sign-up sheet for all those who are interested in coming, which helps to ensure we have enough food and beverages for everyone.
- ▶ The after-hours maintenance emergency number is (800)224-4787. This number is for use in maintenance emergencies only.