

# Gifts Inspiring CHANGE

2023-2024 GIFT CATALOG



Alternative Gifts  
INTERNATIONAL

# OUR CAUSES

Valid 7/1/23 - 6/30/24

## EMPOWER WOMEN



1. Comfort At Home - Uganda
2. Sewing Better Futures - India
3. Women Farmers Unite! - Global
4. Support Her Business - Egypt

## HUNGER RELIEF



5. Help Hungry & Homeless Americans - USA
6. Food & Healing For Ukraine Refugees - Hungary
7. Water Wells For Life - South Sudan

## AGI



8. Increase Our Impact - Global
9. Boost An Underfunded Cause - Global
10. Emergency Disaster Aid - Global

## EDUCATION



11. Donkey Mobile Libraries - Ethiopia
12. Send Her To School - Thailand
13. Plant A Community Garden - Tribal Lands, USA
14. Necessities For School - Kenya

## ENVIRONMENT



15. Tree Nurseries for Haiti - Haiti
16. Eco-Stoves & Kitchen Gardens - Belize, Honduras, Panama

## HEALTH & WELL-BEING



17. Life-Saving Backpack Medics - Burma (Myanmar)
18. Bikes Change Communities - Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia
19. The Gift Of Sight - Global
20. Walk To School: No More Crawling - DR Congo

*Did you know?*

*We commit 90% of each donated dollar  
is designated to the Causes as described on these pages.*

# 1 COMFORT AT HOME

UGANDA



*Photo Credit: Love Without Boundaries*

In Uganda, many families are extremely impoverished and face severe hardship. Work has been impossible during the nation-wide shutdown because of the coronavirus pandemic, thus increasing their need of assistance. Some families have been forced to live in tent-like structures on undeveloped land or have no shelter at all. They lack the most basic supplies, such as blankets or a bed.

**Love Without Boundaries'** goal is to provide shelter and comfort for families through the provision of home builds (or rebuilds), beds, and blankets. Your gift will make it possible for them to have safe shelter, warmth, and comfort.

**\$25**

A blanket

**\$121**

A bed

**\$5,500**

Build a home for a family

# 2 SEWING BETTER FUTURES

INDIA



Photo Credit: India Partners

Tailoring training offers a valuable skill for young Dalit women in rural villages and urban slums. There are six schools helping women, and more are finding hope through tailoring every day. These women are serious about their desire to learn a skill since their social class severely limits their vocational options.

After they complete the program through **India Partners** and begin working, they will earn about 400 rupees a day—twice what they would earn as field hands or doing other menial jobs. Moreover, having a home-based sewing business enables a mother to care for her kids while at home, earn a modest but decent wage, and even save a little money to send her children to school.

**\$31**

Tailoring Training (1 mth)

**\$182**

A sewing machine

**\$1,105**

Full training course  
& sewing course (3 women)



# 3 WOMEN FARMERS UNITE!

GLOBAL



Photo Credit: MADRE

Climate breakdown and exploitative development are global threats, and Indigenous women farmers are hardest hit. However, these women refuse to be victimized, creating innovative, locally-rooted responses to crisis.

**MADRE** strengthens the leadership of women farmers to determine their economic futures, resourcing farming collectives that build their autonomy and independence. Together, they promote the preservation of Indigenous traditions like cultivating native crops, ensuring food security and nutrition, supporting energy-efficient greenhouses that lessen pollution and deforestation, and creating water systems to guard against drought. Your gift supports women farmers worldwide!

**\$6**

Seeds for one woman farmer

**\$17**

Equipment & tools

**\$550**

Sustainable agriculture workshop (1 group)

# 4 SUPPORT HER BUSINESS

EGYPT



Photo Credit: HANDS

In Upper Egypt, extreme poverty is affecting an estimated 66% of the population. Women are disproportionately impacted by COVID-related economic difficulties, such as unemployment, discrimination, and gender-based violence.

The **Hands Along the Nile** microloan program helps female led households in some of the most marginalized areas in urban Cairo and rural Upper Egypt. When a woman loses a husband, the entire family loses financial support. For such women, owning livestock, selling their produce at the market, or starting a home-based business can make all the difference and feeds the hungry mouths at home. By receiving loans, livestock, and training, women have a chance to secure a dignified life as proud leaders.

**\$55**

A share of livestock

**\$110**

A goat or sheep

**\$550**

Small herd of livestock

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.

# 5

## HELP HOMELESS & HUNGRY AMERICANS

USA



Photo Credit: Timur Weber

Over half a million people experienced homelessness in America last year. Roughly, that's about 18 per 10,000 people in the US, up about 2,000 people from 2020\*. American families are feeling the pressure more than ever. Financial hardships due to job loss creates additional burdens. Approximately 17,337 people were living on the street, in a car, or in another place not meant for human habitation on any given night in 2021\*\*.

**Alternative Gifts International** addresses these challenges by supporting local homeless shelters and food banks. Food, shelter, hygiene supplies and clothing, are all gifts that will supply basic human needs for vulnerable American families.

*\*source: HUD.org / \*\*endhomelessness.org*

**\$25**

A night of shelter & basic necessities

**\$65**

Groceries for a week (1 family)

**\$1,500**

Supplies for a food bank or shelter

# 6 FOOD & HEALING FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

HUNGARY



Photo Credit: Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship

*Julci (pictured) doesn't smile. Her face masks the pain and fear in her eyes caused by separation from her parents, family, and home. Three-year-old Julci is one of thousands of displaced Ukrainian children sent for safety to orphanages located in remote and rural areas.*

The UN information website, Reliefweb, estimates roughly one third of Ukrainians have been displaced because of the Russian invasion and following war. They were forced to leave everything behind. There is a growing need to supplement food and shelter with emotional support for traumatized children and their receiving communities. In partnership with **Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship**, your gift will provide age-appropriate therapy, as well as other basic needs for Ukrainian refugee children and mothers.

**\$14**

Food or therapy session  
for one child

**\$132**

Food or therapy session  
for 10 children

**\$1,056**

Group therapy for  
20 children  
(1 month)

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.



# 7 WATER WELLS FOR LIFE

SOUTH SUDAN



Photo Credit: Water For South Sudan

More than 5.1 million people in South Sudan live without clean water. South Sudan, the world's youngest country, lacks a stable government and basic infrastructure. Village residents live in unstable communities that are absent of economic growth.

**Water for South Sudan (WFSS)** works to solve these problems holistically by providing access to safe water in rural villages. Local governments are involved at every step, securing buy-in from the community. Villagers work alongside the WFSS team, participating in hygiene education and well maintenance training, thus ensuring long-term sustainability. They also help construct water storage and distribution systems, drill and repair wells, and build latrines (toilet facilities)—bridging the gap between tribes and reducing conflict.

**\$60**

A water pump

**\$121**

Supplies to build  
a water well

**\$550**

Hygiene training for  
a village

# 8 INCREASE OUR IMPACT

GLOBAL



Photo Credit: AGI



The “Alternative Gift” model allows people to give a hand up to those who are suffering so that they may work toward self-sufficiency. Our first gift market was in 1980, when children and adults set up booths and sold relief goods and animals for communities in developing nations. Greeting Cards were inscribed with the gifts purchased and sent to friends and relatives to inform them that an alternative gift was given in their honor. This was the start of the Alternative Gifts Movement!

To continue the mission, we need your help. Your gift to sustain **Alternative Gifts International** is essential to helping us help people in need worldwide. Anyone can join us in improving the world, one gift at a time.

## \$50

Support our continued mission

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.



# BOOST AN UNDERFUNDED CAUSE

GLOBAL



Photo Credit: Pertusinas



When a cause is underfunded, fewer children have food to eat, not as many can attend school, and more mothers will continue to struggle in poverty. The Where Needed Most fund through **Alternative Gifts International** is designated solely for the purpose of ensuring more people receive the aid they need.

At the end of our catalog year in 2022, the Nutrition, Education & Stability For Families program in Egypt, did not receive the funding we hoped to see. Your donations to this fund allowed us to provide a boost—delivering an additional 1,776 meals to young children living in poverty! Will you help us boost more causes this year?

**\$35**

Boost a cause

**\$70**

Boost two causes

# 10 EMERGENCY DISASTER AID

GLOBAL



Photo Credit: lucidwaters

Every year, countless lives globally are impacted because of natural disasters. War and internal conflict contributes to hardships furthermore.

**Alternative Gifts International** partners with trusted, vetted, nonprofit organizations to actively assist in emergency disaster response. This funding aids in mobilizing skilled labor, sending medical supplies, providing food, and more.

Your gift to this program alleviates suffering caused by unexpected disasters that disrupt lives around the world.

## \$65

One share of emergency aid

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.

10





# DONKEY MOBILE LIBRARIES

ETHIOPIA



Photo Credit: Ethiopia Reads

In Ethiopia, children struggle to achieve genuine literacy. Although school enrollment rates have increased substantially, an estimated 45% of people ages 15 and older still cannot read. Even if a child is learning to read, the number of books available in Ethiopian languages beyond textbooks, are limited. Additionally, school and public libraries are scarce and poorly equipped.

**Ethiopia Reads'** programs make reading accessible for children and families, through donkey powered libraries and other activities. Primary aged children are more passionate about reading when the power of reading is promoted by their families at home. Your donation will improve literacy and encourage Ethiopian children to embrace the joy of reading.

**\$20**

30 books

**\$100**

150 books

**\$963**

Stock an entire library

# 12 SEND HER TO SCHOOL

THAILAND



Photo Credit: Angel Covers

In remote areas of northern Thailand, impoverished girls are in danger of human trafficking. The GATE (Girls Advocacy Through Education) Program at **Angel Covers** keeps vulnerable girls in school and away from traffickers. Girls in this region often leave school because their severely impoverished families cannot afford school fees and expenses.

**Success Story:** Khim (pictured) grew up in extreme poverty and was at risk of leaving school. GATE intervened and allowed Khim to remain in school and pursue her passion of studying traditional Thai dance and music while completing her high school education. She plans to attend college and one day become a music teacher.

**\$38**

Tuition & school lunch  
(1 mth)

**\$88**

Supplemental nutrition to  
take home (1 year)

**\$1,320**

One year of college tuition

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.

# 13 PLANT A COMMUNITY GARDEN

TRIBAL LANDS (USA)



Photo Credit: Trees, Water & People

Young people in the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are facing the extinction of their language, their traditional ways, and their cultural values. A new charter school on the Reservation, Kwiyyagat Community Academy (KCA), with support from **Trees, Water & People**, is turning that around. Curriculum at KCA is delivered through the lens of Ute culture. The goal is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from the local elders and to teach the cultural value of plants to K-5 youth. With the continued development of a Ute ethnobotany garden and traditional vegetable garden, the outdoor learning curriculum incorporates literacy, numeracy, social studies and science. Through this program students also learn their language and the traditional values of stewardship, as well as partake in community celebrations that engage Tribal elders.

**\$75**

Plants & garden supplies

**\$250**

Outdoor education curriculum

**\$1,650**

Yearly Harvest Event for the Ute Mountain Ute Community

# 14 NECESSITIES FOR SCHOOL

KENYA



Photo Credit: Expanding Opportunities

**Expanding Opportunities** has been assisting children in Kenya for over two decades. One of the most pressing needs for children is assistance with the cost of their education. On March 5th, 2023, Citizen TV reported that there are 2.4 million learners who have been unable to attend school due to family poverty level, multiple siblings and/or insecurity.

Expanding Opportunities identifies students who are most in need, and assists them with their school fees, uniforms and/or supplies. They also follow up with the children to monitor their performance. Your gift will enable more students to achieve greatness through education!

**\$17**

A backpack

**\$100**

School shoes & uniform

**\$1,920**

Education for 5 students  
(1 year)

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.

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# 15 TREE NURSERIES FOR HAITI

HAITI



Photo Credit: Quixote Center

Two-thirds of Haiti's vulnerable population survive on subsistence agriculture. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, nearly 12 species of birds, 28 species of plants, 46 species of amphibians, 15 species of fish, and some 10 species of reptiles and mammals are in danger of extinction in Haiti. The main reason is deforestation.

To turn this around, **Quixote Center** supports tree nurseries that also generate household income for rural Haitians. In the last quarter of 2022, 412 families planted 11,500 trees in their home gardens and fields. Coconut, avocado, key lime, orange, coffee, and plantain trees are all produced by these nurseries and can yield income to support each participating household.

**\$28**

Plants 25 trees

**\$55**

Plants 50 trees

**\$1,100**

Plants 1,000 trees

# 16 ECO STOVES & KITCHEN GARDENS

BELIZE, HONDURAS, PANAMA



Photo Credit: Sustainable Harvest International



When María Balbina Rodríguez and her family relocated to the community of Aguas Claras in Panama to be closer to education and medical care, she was also looking for a healthier way to cook. María partnered with **Sustainable Harvest International** to gain knowledge of sustainable and eco-friendly cooking practices. They adopted the use of organic fertilizers and implemented soil conservation techniques.

María and her family are growing an abundance of healthy food organically with their kitchen garden, and cooking with eco-stoves which use less wood. Her hope is for other households to have the opportunity to build a better and healthier life.

**\$33**

Starts a kitchen garden

**\$82**

One Eco-stove

**\$1,100**

Training in organic farming  
& soil conservation

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.

16



# LIFE-SAVING BACKPACK MEDICS

BURMA (MYANMAR)



*Photo Credit: Burma Humanitarian Mission*

In 2023, the Burma army unleashed daily attacks against their ethnic minorities, causing thousands to flee to the jungle for safety. Without access to healthcare, lives can be lost. One example is infant mortality, with 1 in 10 children not surviving the birth process without medical care. Additionally, more than 1 in 10 suffer from malaria.

**Burma Humanitarian Mission** is making a difference. They train backpack medic teams and give medicines to treat common, yet lethal conditions such as: malaria, dysentery, infections, landmine injuries, and post-partum complications. The medics travel to isolated villages and camps, providing medical and maternal care. As a result, infant mortality has dropped 100 times since 2002. Your gift of medicine can save more lives.

**\$7**

Anti-malarial treatment

**\$33**

Penicillin for 1 team  
(6 months)

**\$374**

Medical supply items  
(1 year)

# 18 BIKES CHANGE COMMUNITIES

NAMIBIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA



Photo Credit: Bicycles For Humanity

In rural villages of Africa, there is no alternative to reach distant services other than walking. A 10 km (6.21 miles) walk to the clinic to get critical life-saving medication takes two hours each way, but only 15 minutes on a bike. Children walk hours to and from school, only to return home exhausted and hungry. However, a bike once again is a game changer.

**Bicycles for Humanity** seeks to change the world two wheels at a time, delivering 1,600-2,000 bikes annually to their community-operated bike shops. Each bike is sold at an affordable price, and the proceeds from each purchase returns to support the local communities.

**\$35**

Ship 1 bike

**\$100**

Ships 3 bikes

**\$9,000**

Ships a container of bikes



# 19 THE GIFT OF SIGHT

GLOBAL



Photo Credit: Trees For Life

For many children, eyesight is like their “superpower”. Poor eyesight robs a child of their ability to learn, destroying hope for their future. The solution is often as simple as a pair of eyeglasses. However, millions of poor children in developing countries who need glasses cannot afford them. In 2019 the World Health Organization reported approximately 2.2 billion people are living with vision impairment worldwide.

**Trees for Life** has partnered with top eye hospitals in India to address this problem. School children will get regular eye exams, and eyeglasses will be provided for those who need them or other treatments. Your gift can help a student pursue their dreams!

**\$17**

Eye exam and glasses  
(1 child)

**\$33**

Gift of sight (2 children)

**\$1,700**

Gift of sight (100 children)

# 20 WALK TO SCHOOL : NO MORE CRAWLING

DR CONGO



Photo Credit: StandProud

Twin brothers Toto Moise and Ngulwe Leon had similar disabilities due to poorly administered malaria injections, which paralyzed their sciatic nerves. Both were forced to crawl to get around, until they received pre-bracing surgery and leg braces from **StandProud**. They are now able to walk to school and even play soccer!

Parents of children with disabilities in the DR Congo can rarely afford the special equipment needed to enable their children to walk to school, or the school fees required. StandProud helps children to attain maximum mobility and dignity through the crafting of simple orthopedic leg braces, and by teaching the children how to use them.

**\$61**

Leg straps & 1 month of school fees

**\$110**

One half-length leg brace

**\$8,800**

Education for 25 children (1 year)

Suggested gift amounts. Any donation is appreciated.

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