

The Alternative Gift Project

2006-2007



Photo by Erin Friedrichs, courtesy of Clear Path International

*"We must be the change we
wish to see in the world."*

Mahatma Gandhi

This holiday season, give the gift of change.

Our Mission

“The mission of the Alternative Gift Project is to channel the generous spirit of seasonal giving in our own congregation and the larger community by offering a selection of mindful and meaningful gifts that reflect our respect for life and our commitment to global stewardship.”

**Organizations selected for this year's
Alternative Gift Project include:**

ALIVE Shelter (YWCA)

Bikes for Education

Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association

Clear Path International

First Unitarian Universalist Church, New Orleans

Fishline

Great Peninsula Conservancy

Helpline House

UU Holdeen India Program

Literacy Council of Kitsap County

Mercy Corps

New England Women's Initiative/CARE

PATH

Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island's Ugandan Wells Program

Snow Leopard Trust

West Sound Wildlife Shelter

YES! Magazine

You'll find detailed information about each of these organizations and specific gifts you can buy to support their work in the following pages.

A complete list of gifts appears in the back of this catalog.

Every organization included in the Alternative Gift Project is recognized as a non-profit by the US Internal Revenue Service.

The Alternative Gift Project

You are holding in your hands the fifth annual Alternative Gift Project catalog. It has grown and changed a lot since we first got the idea for it. In fact, our first catalog was not a catalog at all but a piece of paper with a list of a couple of organizations on it. What hasn't changed is what we're trying to do.

Our mission statement says it best:

“To channel the generous spirit of seasonal giving in our own congregation and the larger community by offering a selection of mindful and meaningful gifts that reflect our respect for life and our commitment to global stewardship.”

The seed for the Alternative Gift Project was planted one Sunday morning in November 2001. A member of our church stood up and told about an effort in Portland, Oregon, to encourage people to give donations to nonprofit organizations as holiday gifts rather than buying more stuff. It seemed so simple: instead of buying things people don't need for people who already have more stuff than they can possibly ever use, that same money could be spent to help immunize children or train a teacher or preserve farm land. The idea was as appealing as it was simple because ultimately it was about hope, something that sometimes seems in very short supply these days.

We created the Alternative Gift Project the next year. In our first four years, we've raised over \$50,000 for more than two dozen local, national, and international nonprofit organizations. Of course what matters a lot more than the money is what that money has done: dug wells for people in rural Uganda, given prostheses to landmine survivors in southeast Asia, sent girls to school in Afghanistan, stocked the shelves of our local food banks, and bought books for English as a Second Language students right here in Kitsap County.

When you order an alternative gift from our catalog, you can pay an extra \$2 for a handmade card and an insert with details about the organization you've chosen and the specific gift. Each card has unique artwork on the front created for us by developmentally disabled young adults at the Special Needs Foundation; inside is printed one of six inspirational quotations. Each card also comes with an envelope so you can give your gift to its recipient or simply stick it in the mail. Gift giving has never been so simple ... or so meaningful!

This year's catalog includes gifts from 17 nonprofit organizations, including 14 with ties to our local area and three more with an affiliation to Unitarian Universalism. Some, such as Mercy Corps, are huge organizations with international reputations. Others, including Clear Path International and the Snow Leopard Trust, are relatively small organizations doing exceptional work abroad. Still others, including the West Sound Wildlife Shelter, Helpline House, and the ALIVE Shelter, are among the leading nonprofit organizations in our area. What they all have in common is a clear mission that reflects our values. Every one of these organizations is doing important work to help make our world a better place.

You can be part of that work. We've screened each of the organizations in this catalog very carefully to be sure it uses its money wisely and takes its mission seriously. We also have forged personal relationships with these organizations so we know they are run by dedicated, passionate people who share a deep sense of purpose and an unyielding commitment to the interdependent web of all existence.

Take a look through the following pages and think about who you want to give a gift to this year and why. Whether you want to spend \$10 or \$100, you can join us this holiday season in spreading hope.

Carol Ann

Carol Ann Davidson
Chair, Social Action Committee
Cedars UU Church

Carrie

Carrie Klein
Chair, Alternative Gift Project

We need your help spreading the word!

Our best customers are people who understand what we're trying to do and share our values. If you know someone who would appreciate getting this catalog, please tell us his/her name and address. Send us an email at cuucoffice@cedarsuuchurch.org or you can also download a copy of our catalog at www.cedarsuuchurch.org.

ALIVE Shelter

Kitsap County's only Domestic Violence Shelter

Most people don't talk about domestic violence. It often goes totally unnoticed, even in our close circle of family and friends. But it is one of the real terrors stalking our country. According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, as many as three million women in the United States are abused each year by their husbands or boyfriends. One in four women in this country has been physically assaulted by a husband, partner, or date over the course of her life.

Children are just as vulnerable as women. Slightly more than half of all women who report domestic abuse live in households with children under 12, and fully 50 percent of all men who frequently assault their wives also abuse their children. As many as 10 million children in the United States witness domestic violence each year.

There's no excuse for domestic violence. And for some women, it seems that there's no way out of it either. But shelters offer an escape route for women and children fleeing from domestic violence. With counseling, job training, and simply the security of a safe space, shelters like the YWCA's ALIVE Shelter offer hope to women and their children. That's why the Alternative Gift Project has included gifts to the ALIVE Shelter, the only shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence in Kitsap County, for the past three years.



How you can help...

The YWCA's ALIVE Shelter runs on a shoestring. Diapers, shampoo, and even basic food items are always in short supply. The ALIVE Shelter served more than 100 women and children last year but had to turn away at least that many each month because of space and budget constraints.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 1 | \$25 | Buys a month's worth of shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste and other personal hygiene items for a woman who has fled an abusive situation and is living in the YWCA's ALIVE Shelter. |
| 2 | \$25 | Buys diapers and other supplies for a baby or toddler who is staying with his mother in the YWCA's ALIVE Shelter after fleeing an abusive situation. |

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

- William James

Bikes for Education

Changing Lives with a Basic Bike

Olowo-n'djo Tchala and Maria and Adrian Mason had never met before, but their chance encounter at Bumbershoot in 2004 led to a partnership that has touched hundreds of children in 14 villages in West Africa. Maria and her son Adrian were inspired by Olowo-n'djo's fair trade shea butter woman's cooperative and his company's philosophy of creating economic opportunities for woman in Togo, his native country. And so they began brainstorming about ways they could create a bridge between Bainbridge Island and Togo. What they came up with is called Bikes for Education.

In Togo, children walk an average of ten miles a day to school. Some schools are so far from their homes that students spend Monday through Friday with relatives to be closer to the school, returning home only on weekends. A simple bicycle would literally change their lives, but the purchase of even a used bicycle is a wild extravagance in a country where the average daily wage is less than a dollar.



Photo courtesy of Maria Mason

That's where Bikes for Education comes in. Maria and Adrian joined forces with some folks in Olympia and began collecting used bikes from families in our area. By the spring of 2006, they had 400 of them. And so they hired a container and shipped them 7,230 miles from Olympia to Lomé, then hired a truck to take them to 14 villages in northern Togo. They've also hired mechanics to travel between the various villages making needed repairs.

How you can help...

Of course the need for bicycles greatly outstripped their supply, so Maria, Adrian and all the folks at Bikes for Education are currently collecting more. While all the bikes are donated, shipping costs, port fees, and repair costs all need to be covered. Just getting the bikes from the port in Olympia to northern Togo costs almost \$10,000. That's where your gift can support this program.

Gift #	Price	Description
3	\$25	Will cover the cost of shipping a donated bicycle from the port of Olympia to its new owner in northern Togo.
4	\$12	Will buy a new tire and inner tube for a donated bicycle.



Photo courtesy of Maria Mason

According to UNESCO, more than 100 million children worldwide will never even enroll in primary school. In the least developed countries, 40 percent of those who do enroll in primary school drop out before achieving basic literacy.

Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association

Celebrating 20 Years of People-to-People Relations

The year was 1986. Acrimonious debates raged over US support for the contra rebels in Nicaragua, but Bainbridge Island residents Kim and Ela Esterberg were determined to create a people-to-people relationship that transcended politics. So determined, in fact, that Kim collected \$10 from each of 100 Bainbridge residents and joined a delegation from Seattle going to learn more about the real situation in Nicaragua. His mission was to find a sister island.



Photo courtesy of BOSIA

What he found was Ometepe, an island in a large fresh-water lake called Lake Nicaragua, or Cocibolca. Covering roughly 100 square miles, the island is formed from two volcanoes joined at the base by a narrow isthmus. After meeting with the two mayors and others on Ometepe, Esterberg brought stories of Ometepe back to awaiting friends and supporters on Bainbridge, and a relationship was born.

Twenty years later, the Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association continues to thrive. Today, over 35,000 live in small towns and villages around the island. Together, volunteers in both countries have created schools and water systems, sponsored scholarships for students who want to go on to college, and designed programs to improve the health



Photo courtesy of BOSIA

and education of the people of Ometepe. At the same time, the relationship has transformed the lives of many young people and adults on Bainbridge Island. Indeed, a second generation of children is now growing up with a connection to each other through projects and programs in schools in both places.

How you can help...

With the direct support of the Alternative Gift Project, all ten high schools on Ometepe have been subscribing to the Spanish-language version of *National Geographic* for the last several years. Latrines have been built, and children in Balgue, a village in the southern part of Ometepe, have had milk to drink. This year, we're adding a month's support for a high school graduate from Ometepe attending college. Each of these gifts strengthens the ties that bind our sister islands and directly affects the lives of people in Ometepe.

Gift # Price Description

- | | | |
|---|-------|---|
| 5 | \$8 | Buys milk for a young child six days a week for a month through a program started by mothers in Balgue, a village in southern Ometepe. |
| 6 | \$34 | Renews a subscription for one year to the Spanish-language version of National Geographic in one of Ometepe's ten high schools. |
| 7 | \$80 | Underwrites a month of college for a high school graduate from Ometepe. Since 1990, more than three dozen teachers, doctors, social workers, and others have graduated from college because of this program. |
| 8 | \$125 | Builds a latrine for a family in the town of San Marcos, bringing tremendous health benefits to that family and their entire community. |

"I dwell in possibility."

- Emily Dickenson

Clear Path International

Bringing Mobility to Landmine Survivors



Photo courtesy of Clear Path International

U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam more than 30 years ago, but the suffering caused by that war continues. Since the guns fell silent in 1975, nearly 40,000 people in Vietnam have been injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance. In Cambodia, a three-decade civil war ended barely ten years ago; across the Thai border in Burma the fighting is still going on. Every day, someone somewhere in Southeast Asia gets maimed or killed by these wartime explosives.

Clear Path International was founded in 2000 by a group of friends who shared a wealth of experience in humanitarian mine action. Based on Bainbridge Island and in Dorset, Vermont, the group quickly became a leader in the ongoing international effort to help survivors of landmines and other unexploded ordnance. Clear Path currently works in Vietnam, Cambodia, and on the Thai-Burma border, together with mine-affected communities, to build programs and projects that are sustainable and effective. Its projects include both direct and indirect medical and social services to survivor families as well as equipment support to hospitals in the developing world.

How you can help...

Since we began including Clear Path International in the Alternative Gift Project, more than 100 people have received below-the-knee prostheses who would otherwise not have had access to these simple but life-changing devices. Clear Path International and the Alternative Gift Project's customers have literally given these people the gift of mobility. This year, in addition to that gift, we are including two new ones. Whatever you chose, your gift will change someone's life.

Gift # Price Description

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 9 | \$35 | Gives a below-the-knee prosthetic to a landmine survivor on the Thai-Burma border. |
| 10 | \$50 | Pays for a year of school for a Vietnamese child injured by a landmine. This gift will be doubled as it qualifies for a matching grant from the U.S. State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. |
| 11 | \$100 | Buys a cow for the family of a landmine survivor in Vietnam, dramatically increasing their household income. This gift will be doubled as it qualifies for a matching grant from the U.S. State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. |



According to UNICEF, almost half of the world's 25 million refugees are children.

Photo courtesy of Clear Path International

First UU Church, New Orleans



Photo courtesy of First UU Church, New Orleans

Katrina Survivors Rebuilding

The First Unitarian Church of New Orleans was born when many people in his congregation decided to follow the Reverend Theodore Parson Clapp after his excommunication in 1832 by the Presbyterian Synod for preaching

about universal salvation. In the almost 200 years since then, the congregation has worshiped in half a dozen different buildings, weathered numerous storms, and stood at the forefront of the struggle against racism and poverty. Always it has stood as a beacon of liberal religion in the Deep South.

When the levees in New Orleans broke following Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005, the entire church building was flooded. Virtually everything, including the sanctuary and all its contents, was lost. As its congregation of 100 meets in a church across the street, First Church stands empty and gutted. Plans are now underway for its renovation. Already the second floor has been turned into a Volunteer Center, where UUs who come to help rebuild the city can stay.

The scenes of devastation in New Orleans and surrounding areas are so overwhelming that they leave many of us paralyzed. How can I help? What can one person do? Will New Orleans ever come back? The congregation of the First Church has a resounding answer for that last question: yes. They will come back. Stronger than ever. And with the financial help of Unitarian Universalists and others who share our values, First UU Church can be a vibrant part of that rebirth.



Photo courtesy of First UU Church, NO

How you can help...

Like so many other people in post-Katrina New Orleans, our friends at First UU Church are starting from scratch. The building is intact, but the interior had to be completely gutted. What does it take to rebuild a church? Time, patience, vision, effort, and lots of money. By including the First Church Building Fund in this year's Alternative Gift Project, we are giving you the chance to help. Anything donated to the Building Fund will be used to buy carpet, chairs, or other materials for the renovation of the sanctuary and other spaces. We're offering gifts at the \$25 and \$100 levels.

Gift #	Price	Description
12	\$25	Unrestricted contribution to the First UU Church of New Orleans Building Fund .
13	\$100	Unrestricted contribution to the First UU Church of New Orleans Building Fund .



Photo courtesy of First UU Church, New Orleans

*"How far that little candle throws its beams!
So shines a good deed in a weary world."*

- William Shakespeare

Fishline

North Kitsap Food Bank

It seems hard to imagine in this land of plenty that millions of people are forced to choose every month between health care and decent housing or between heat and food. But the fact is that as many as 27 million people used the nation's network of food banks and soup kitchens last year. According to America's Second Harvest, more than 4 million people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

Poulsbo's Fishline is part of that network and the place people in the North Kitsap School District turn to when times are tough. Fishline not only runs a food bank where people can come to a self-service market and get emergency food boxes. It also runs a thrift shop and provides school supplies, holiday baskets, and emergency energy and transportation assistance.



How you can help...

An emergency food box contains half a week's supplies for a family of four. It contains such items as meat, eggs, canned goods, and toilet paper. While the combined retail value of these items is almost \$100, Fishline is able to purchase in bulk and thus reduce the cost dramatically.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

14	\$25	Covers the cost of one emergency food box for a family of four.
----	------	--

When a family is already under economic stress, the addition of a new baby can bring tremendous pressures. Fishline's Infant Support Program is designed to relieve some of those pressures, in part by making such costly items as diapers and formula available free of charge.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

15	\$15	Provides a family with a new baby half a case of diapers .
----	------	---

According to the Children's Defense Fund, almost 13 million children in the United States are currently living in poverty. That number has grown 11% since 2000.

Great Peninsula Conservancy

Preserving Working Farms and Wild Places

As new homes, businesses, and roads began to encroach on what had been largely rural areas in the Kitsap Peninsula a generation ago, groups of volunteers began to get together to form land trusts that could acquire and protect land from development. They knew that if they didn't act quickly the working farms, woodlands, fragile shorelines, streams, and wetlands of Kitsap, Mason and western Pierce counties would be threatened. In 2000, four of these groups decided to pool their resources and their energies to create a permanent, sustainable organization that looked at the region as a whole and worked to protect its special places. The Great Peninsula Conservancy was born.



Photo courtesy of Great Peninsula Conservancy

Open spaces. Clean water. Wild creatures. These are the inspirations for the work of the Great Peninsula Conservancy and its supporters. They know that our region is full of habitat and natural systems that cannot survive if they are not protected. That's why the organization seeks to identify threatened areas and works with landowners to protect those areas. Since its creation, the Great Peninsula Conservancy has protected more than 1,900 acres of endangered land in our area to hold in trust for the entire community. Its efforts now are directed at two additional properties, each with unique characteristics.

How you can help...

The Conservancy is working with the Friends of Miller Bay to permanently protect more than 18 acres on **Cowling Creek** near Suquamish. Although funds have been raised to purchase this critical fish and wildlife habitat, the real challenge now is to be stewards of the land by regularly visiting it and carefully documenting any changes.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

16	\$25	Buy a compass, clipboard, flagging tape, and boundary stakes for a Stewardship Kit used by one of the Great Peninsula Conservancy's volunteer Land Stewards to monitor the critical fish and wildlife habitat at Cowling Creek.
----	------	--

Chico Creek is the most productive salmon habitat on the Kitsap Peninsula and a crucial north-south corridor for wildlife. That's why the Great Peninsula Conservancy is working with Kitsap County and the Mountaineers Foundation to protect 623 acres of the Chico Creek Watershed.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

17	\$50	Buy protection for one foot of choice spawning gravel in Chico Creek, a habitat that supports 35,000 returning salmon each year.
----	------	---

"Do what you can with what you have, where you are."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Helpline

Bainbridge Island's Safety Net

Some people come to Helpline House to borrow medical equipment after surgery or an accident. Others come for job training through the Skills Plus program. More than 600 households each month come to Helpline House for its food bank. Through more than a dozen

programs, including everything from Project Backpack to the Clothing Connection to individual and family counseling, this remarkable place serves as a lifeline for more than 1500 people every year.

Known as the island's primary link to support services as well as an important protector of the island's social and economic diversity, local churchwomen founded Helpline, a volunteer emergency aid program in 1968 as an ecumenical response to our nation's "War on Poverty." Its mission is to serve the entire Bainbridge Island community by inviting

people into a circle of giving and receiving help. The Helpline House motto says it all: "neighbor helping neighbor." Although it receives support from various faith communities, Helpline House today is an entirely independent organization.



Photo courtesy of Joel Sackett



Photo courtesy of Joel Sackett

How you can help...

One of the things that makes Helpline so effective is its ability to create community connections and get people involved in supporting its programs. Filling 1,800 bags of groceries every month takes a lot of food, and one of the many ways Helpline gets that food is from its pea patch at Battle Point Park. Among those helping to grow the vegetables are residents of Serenity House, a local care facility. As participants in Helpline's Community Access and Person-to-Person Employment Support programs for people with developmental disabilities, they are among the pea patch's most loyal caretakers.

Gift #	Price	Description
18	\$15	Buys eight seed packets or five plants to grow vegetables for the food bank in the Helpline House pea patch.
19	\$45	Pays for an hour of supervision and counseling time for people with developmental disabilities who want to work in the Helpline House pea patch.

Food drives and individual donations help keep the food bank's shelves stocked with nonperishable items, but sometimes there are holes. Peanut butter is rich in protein and a favorite of many clients. But it is expensive and hard to keep in stock. So Helpline uses cash donations to buy peanut butter and other similar items in bulk.

Gift #	Price	Description
18	\$10	Buys three jars of protein-rich peanut butter for the Helpline House food bank.

According to the Worldwatch Institute, it would take two more Earths to sustain India and China if their populations consumed at the per capita rate of the U.S. population.

UU Holdeen India Program

Building Partnerships for Justice in India

Jonathan Holdeen, a wealthy attorney in New York, had never been to India nor was he a Unitarian when he established a trust in the 1940s to benefit the women and children of India and to be administered by the American Unitarian Association. When the trust was awarded to the Unitarian Universalist Association in the 1980s, the UU Holdeen India Program was born.

Instead of creating its own programs, the Holdeen India Program works tirelessly to build partnerships with indigenous organizations already working for justice on the ground. Since its inception, the Holdeen India Program has supported the efforts of organizations of the most marginalized and oppressed people in India: women, Dalits (untouchables) and tribal members in their struggle for economic and social justice. These organizations enforce land, forest and water rights, free bonded laborers, educate the children of bonded and migrant laborers, and help women take charge of their lives. “Instead of giving money to a project, you give to an organization or a leader who is starting an organization,” says Kathy Sreedhar, Holdeen India’s longtime director. “You support the group however it wants it. You don’t decide what they do. They should decide. And it isn’t just money. It’s training and information and networking.”



Photo courtesy of UU Holdeen India

How you can help...

One of the Holdeen India Program's primary partners is Vidhayak Sansad, an organization founded in 1982 to bring about constructive change in the rural areas of India's Maharashtra state. Working with the children of tribal and marginalized groups, Vidhayak Sansad seeks the release of bonded children, especially those working in brick kilns. Thousands of children have been released thanks to the combined efforts of Vidhayak Sansad and the Holdeen India Program, but tens of thousands more remain.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

21	\$28	Supplies a month's worth of food, clothing, accommodations and medical care for a child released from bonded labor and now enrolled at a residential school.
----	------	---

An outgrowth of the work to release children from bonded labor has been the establishment of *bhonga shalas*, special schools for the children of migrant workers who must move between agricultural work and manual labor at brick kilns during the year. Without these schools, children would be out of school for large parts of the year and fall hopelessly behind in their studies.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

22	\$30	Covers the cost of training and materials for one teacher at a <i>bhonga shala</i> , a temporary school at one of India's seasonal brick factories.
----	------	--

"Every man wants ... to know that – however vast and impersonal all life about him may seem, however hard may be the stretch of road on which he is journeying – he is not alone, but the object of another's concern and caring."

- The Reverend Howard Thurman

Literacy Council of Kitsap County

Because Literacy is a Human Right

What does it mean to be literate? The dictionary defines it as the ability to read and write. But that definition is incomplete. In today society's, being literate also means being able to communicate effectively, navigate various media, and make informed decisions after evaluating different sources. Being literate also means being able to participate fully in both our economy and our democracy.

The Literacy Council of Kitsap County is committed to helping folks who grew up speaking a language other than English, adults who dropped out of school, and others in Kitsap County become active, engaged members of our community by making basic literacy skills accessible to everyone. The Literacy Council's staff and volunteers offer everything from ESL classes for recent immigrants to one-on-one tutoring to classes for people preparing to seek a General Education Diploma. They also offer an award-winning program teaching parents how to read with their children.

We've included the Literacy Council of Kitsap County in the Alternative Gift Project for the last several years because we are committed to their mission and to the idea that literacy is a human right.



Photo courtesy of Literacy Council of Kitsap County

How you can help...

The Literacy Council of Kitsap County serves hundreds of students each year, nearly 80 percent of whom are low-income. To make its services accessible to everyone who needs them means that the Literacy Council is constantly looking for funding sources. For the price of a single workbook, you can help give the gift of literacy.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 23 | \$12 | Buys a workbook for a student in English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes in Kitsap County. |
| 24 | \$30 | Buys a set of workbooks for each of the five General Equivalency Diploma (GED) subject areas for someone who didn't complete high school. |

The adult literacy rate in the United States is 97 percent, ranking us 55th in the world, according to a 2005 survey commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme.

Mercy Corps

One of the World's Most Respected Relief and Development Organizations

The year was 1979. Refugees were fleeing the famine, war, and

genocide of Cambodia's Killing Fields. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children were desperate. Northwesterner Dan O'Neil, already a veteran of relief work in several parts of the world, responded by organizing a task force called Save the Refugees Fund. By 1981, it had morphed into Mercy Corps International and expanded its focus to include vulnerable populations throughout southeast Asia and around the world. Its first development project began in Honduras in 1982.



Photo courtesy of Mercy Corps

More than two decades later, Mercy Corps has grown to become one of the world's most respected humanitarian relief and development organizations. Mercy Corps was among the first humanitarian groups to use relief and development programs to strengthen civil society. Simply handing out food, building a school or immunizing a child is not enough, especially in countries torn by ethnic conflict and economic transition. Just a few weeks of armed conflict can destroy roads, schools, businesses and health systems that took years of traditional development work to build. Working side by side with the poor, Mercy Corps brings diverse groups together to create societies that are more peaceful, open, democratic and economically strong.

How you can help...

Known for its quick-response, high-impact, and cost-effective programs around the globe, Mercy Corp's work has touched families and communities in more than 80 countries and provided more than \$1 billion in food, shelter, health care, water and sanitation, education, small business loans, and other forms of relief and development assistance.

As situations and needs change, so do Mercy Corp programs. What doesn't change is the organization's steadfast commitment to working with people in diverse communities around the world to recover from disasters, build stronger communities, and find their own solutions to poverty.

Gift #	Price	Description
25	\$24	Using innovative, community-based programs, this gift provides an HIV-AIDS Awareness Kit to a community struggling with this global plague.
26	\$30	Provides immunizations , nutrition, and health education programs for children and their families to eradicate such deadly but preventable diseases as tuberculosis and diarrhea.

Please note: these are just two of Mercy Corp's "Mercy Kits" available on the organization's web site, www.mercycorps.org.



Photo courtesy of Mercy Corps

*"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."
- Mahatma Gandhi*

NEWI/CARE

A Partnership for Girls and Women

The New England Women's Initiative (NEWI) was started in 2002 by a group of women in Boston, Massachusetts, who wanted to make a difference in the lives of girls and women in underserved communities. Partnering with CARE, the highly respected international nonprofit dedicated to combating the roots of poverty in the developing world, NEWI's members work to raise awareness of, and funds for, projects that directly support education and income opportunities for girls and women.



Photo courtesy of NEWI/CARE

NEWI first came to our attention through a member of our Steering Committee who grew up in Belmont, Massachusetts. The Unitarian Universalist congregation there was home to several of the founding members of NEWI and she had learned about it on a recent visit. She thought we might be interested. When we learned about the great projects NEWI supports and the excellent track record of CARE, we unanimously agreed to include NEWI in the Alternative Gift Project catalog. That was years ago and we've been including NEWI in every catalog we've produced since then.



Photo courtesy of NEWI/CARE

While the local connection to NEWI existed only through one person when we first included a NEWI project called "Fast Track" in our catalog four years ago, dozens of people in our area have supported it in the years since then. Because of the generosity of people in our community, dozens of Afghan girls have been in school in recent years who might not otherwise have been. Talk about making a direct connection! We're proud to include Fast Track and several other NEWI projects in this year's catalog.

How you can help...

NEWI's earliest and now oldest project is the **Fast Track** program in Afghanistan, a network of nine schools with more than 2,500 girls between the ages of 9 and 14 who are working to make up for the years they lost when they were prevented by the Taliban from attending school. Girls in this program can "fast track" grades one through six and then rejoin public schools in seventh grade.

Gift #	Price	Description
27	\$14	Provides paper and textbooks for a year for one girl enrolled in the <i>Fast Track</i> program.
28	\$40	Buys one month of school supplies for a <i>Fast Track</i> classroom with as many as 25 girls.

Another joint project of NEWI and CARE is **Women on the Move**, a microenterprise loan program for women in the Niger.

Gift #	Price	Description
29	\$40	Gives a woman in Niger access to a village savings and loan program through <i>Women on the Move</i> , allowing her to start a small income-generating business.

NEWI's most recent project is **Educational Pathways for South Sudanese Girls**. Decades of internal conflict have nearly destroyed southern Sudan's educational system, but NEWI and CARE are helping girls in isolated areas to gain access to education.

Gift #	Price	Description
30	\$40	Provides five adolescent girls with a year's support and tutoring from a female mentor through the <i>Educational Pathways for South Sudanese Girls</i> program.
31	\$80	Supplies a year's worth of textbooks to ten girls in one of the new community schools created by the <i>Educational Pathways for South Sudanese Girls</i> .



Photo courtesy of NEWI/CARE

According to the World Health Organization, more than half a million women die in childbirth each year, 99% of them in the developing world.

PATH

Creating Sustainable Solutions to Global Health Problems

PATH is an international nonprofit organization that bridges the gap between new developments in science and technology and the needs and priorities of our world's poorest communities. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. PATH works in the areas of maternal and child health, reproductive health, vaccines and immunization, and emerging and epidemic diseases including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Founded nearly 30 years ago in Seattle, PATH today has offices around the world and current projects in more than 65 countries.

PATH has been recognized for the innovation and impact of its work by the Schwab Foundation, *Fast Company* magazine, Amazon.com, the Washington Health Foundation, and the Tech Museum of Innovation. In 2005, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the City of Seattle honored PATH with their "Human Rights Award" for their work in global health. Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations, has granted PATH its highest possible four-star rating for its exemplary financial stewardship.



Photo: UNICEF/HQ020263/Giacomo Pirozzi

How you can help...

Catalyst Fund donors are the earliest partners in PATH's most effective work. Your contribution to the Catalyst Fund, their primary source of flexible funds, makes it possible to design trial runs that become country-wide programs, carry out groundbreaking research, and develop technologies that eclipse the current state-of-the-art. With these funds, they can prove change is possible—and leverage the financial and intellectual resources of collaborators and funders around the world.

Gift #	Price	Description
32	\$25	Goes to PATH's Catalyst Fund.
33	\$100	Goes to PATH's Catalyst Fund.



Photo courtesy of PATH

"Courage begins with one voice."

- Oscar Arias Sanchez

Bainbridge Island Rotary Club

Bringing Clean Water to Ugandan Villages



Photo courtesy of Karyn L. Carpenter

The remarkable story of the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club's efforts to bring clean water to villages halfway around the world began almost 10 years ago when Peter Emau, a native of Uganda working as a researcher at the University of Washington, wanted help publishing textbooks in a local dialect. Peter's brother was a teacher in Uganda and had no access to books in the dialect spoken by the people where he was teaching. His father-in-law, a longtime Rotary Club member in Port Orchard, suggested that he try his local Rotary Club.

When several members of the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club went to the drought-stricken Kaberamaido District north of Kampala to deliver the textbooks they paid to have printed in 2001, they were struck by the fact that many children in the area were ill because they had no access to clean water. Women were walking miles to crocodile-infested lakes to get water, and even then it was often unclean. So they came home determined to do something about it.

Digging a well in this part of Uganda is no simple matter. Because of the unusually hard rock that lies between the earth's surface and the clean water below it, heavy equipment is needed. But that didn't deter the folks from Rotary, and the first well dug through this program came on line a year later in the village of Ochero. In the four years since then, thanks in part to funds raised through the Alternative Gift Project and matching grants from Rotary International, 33 more wells have been drilled. As a result, thousands more children and their families have access to clean drinking water.

How you can help...

The cost of each well is roughly \$5,000. Each well benefits 400 people over the course of its life, at least 10 years. That's how we've come up with this simple equation: \$12.50 brings clean water to 10 families for a year. That's right—for the price of a movie ticket and popcorn, 10 families in rural Uganda can turn on a tap at their village well and get clean drinking water.

Gift #	Price	Description
34	\$12.50	Brings clean water to 10 families in Uganda's Kaberamaido District for a year. This gift may be matched by more than \$30 in additional grants.
35	\$62.50	Brings clean water to 50 families in Uganda's Kaberamaido District for a year. This gift may be matched by more than \$150 in additional grants.



Photo courtesy of Karyn L. Carpenter

Per capita consumption of water in the United States is 185 gallons of water a day. In Uganda, it's 2.5 gallons a day.

Snow Leopard Trust

Saving Snow Leopards with Sustainable Development and Education

As habitats and the species they support disappear around the world because of encroaching human development and environmental degradation, it's easy to give in to despair. But the Snow Leopard Trust has a story of hope. Founded by the Education Director at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo in 1981 to protect the few thousand snow leopards remaining in the wild, the Snow Leopard Trust is now working in five countries throughout central Asia to protect the future of this magnificent animal and the people who share its habitat.



Photo courtesy of Snow Leopard Trust

The work of the Snow Leopard Trust is based in science. Its research programs have yielded new information on snow leopards and other species living in the remote and mountainous habitat of Central Asia. At the same time, the Trust is committed to working with governments, communities, and individuals throughout the region to build support for snow leopard conservation efforts. In addition, the Trust is committed to improving the lives of these people and partnering with them to build sustainable programs and projects for their communities.

Underlying much of the Snow Leopard Trust's work is an understanding that many families living in the snow leopard's habitat subsist on very little money. Because snow leopard pelts, bones, and other body parts are in great demand for traditional clothing and medicine and live animals are highly sought after for private collections, killing or capturing a snow leopard can be very lucrative. That's why an investment in the economy of these areas and in such things as livestock vaccinations are really an investment in snow leopards. Educating children and other people about the snow leopard is also critical.

How you can help...

Families participating in each of the Snow Leopard Trust's programs commit to snow leopard conservation through a complete ban on the killing of any cats or key prey species. By supporting the families, you can help to insure the continued existence of this magnificent cat in future generations.

Gift #	Price	Description
--------	-------	-------------

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 36 | \$10 | Vaccinates 10 head of livestock in northern Pakistan against common diseases. The profits from selling these healthy animals at market pay for schooling, food, and medicine. |
| 37 | \$20 | Makes it possible for a woman in Mongolia to attend a skills training workshop where she'll learn how to use traditional arts to create items for western markets. |
| 38 | \$50 | Sends one child in the Kyrgyz Republic to a week-long Eco Summer Camp where she can learn about her special mountain environment while enjoying a rare opportunity to make connections with children in other villages. Children who attend this camp also return home with special educational materials to share with their communities. |

"To think is easy. To act is hard. But the hardest thing in the world is to act in accordance with your thinking."

- Goethe

West Sound Wildlife Shelter



Photo courtesy of WSWG

Protecting Local Wildlife

As the human population in Kitsap County and other parts of the Western Puget Sound continues to grow, so too does the pressure on the animal population of our area.

At the same time, the interest in protecting and preserving wildlife of this area continues to grow. Those forces combine to make the West Sound Wildlife Shelter, the only full-scale wildlife rehabilitation center in this area, a pretty busy place.

Since the West Sound Wildlife Shelter first began treating injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife in September of 1999, the number of animals coming through its doors has increased from 200 to almost 600 each year. And that's only part of the Shelter's mission. In addition to treating animals, the staff and volunteers at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter respond to an estimated 2,000 phone calls per year. Many of those calls result in phone counseling for people who want to know how to resolve wildlife issues like squirrels living in their attic or river otters living under their porch without hurting the animals involved.

"In a perfect world," says Kol Medina, the Executive Director of the West Sound Wildlife Shelter, "we would educate everyone so well about how to co-exist peacefully with animals that we would never have any patients to care for." In the meantime, they have a lot of work to do. And through the Alternative Gift Project, you can help.

How you can help...

The West Sound Wildlife Shelter is located on five acres adjacent to, and provided by, the Bloedel Reserve. Every week, orphaned, sick, and injured animals arrive needing shelter, medical care, and food. They get those things as well as compassionate rehabilitation services designed to assure their safe release back into the wild. But it doesn't come cheap.

Gift #	Price	Description
39	\$30	Provides shelter, medical care, and food for an orphaned, sick, or injured kingfisher for one week.
40	\$75	Provides shelter, medical care, and food for one orphaned, sick, or injured baby raccoon for one week.
41	\$125	Provides shelter, medical care, and food for one orphaned, sick, or injured bald eagle for one week.



Photo courtesy of WSWWS

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, almost a quarter of the world's mammals face extinction in the next 30 years.

YES! Magazine

A magazine dedicated to real change

Imagine a magazine full of well written, thoroughly researched articles but not a single advertisement, a magazine run as a nonprofit dedicated to giving visibility and momentum to practical, creative social change work in the United States and around the globe. If you're a reader of YES! Magazine, you don't need to imagine it because you read it four times a year. Since 1996 YES!, a national magazine published on Bainbridge Island, has been inspiring people's active engagement in building a just and sustainable world. The stories, how-to's, and discussion and resource guides encourage everyone, young and old alike, to be part of a powerful process of change.

YES! is published by the Positive Futures Network, an organization dedicated to the belief that we need deep change if we are to avoid the breakdown of society and the natural world. YES! Magazine seeks to highlight the powerful innovations in such sectors of society as agriculture, business, criminal justice, education and the work millions of people are already doing to create the needed changes in their homes, communities, work places, and nations. Although this amazing work is barely visible in the media and the prevailing political discourse, the folks at YES! believe it holds the promise of transforming the foundations of our world.



Graphic courtesy of YES! Magazine

How you can help...

In 2001, YES! began offering classroom teachers a free, one-year introductory magazine subscription. Since then, more than 7,000 teachers have made use of the offer. Many have sent thank you's with their comments:

I love the magazine! YES! informs my teaching and helps to inspire me to cover certain topics in class.

- Mike Eells, middle school teacher, Seattle, WA

YES! magazine is exactly what I have been looking for! My students vary in age, race, tribe, and interests, but they are all fascinated by the timely and enlightening material published in YES!

- Kate Odefey, community college faculty, San Juan, NM

You can help make these subscriptions available to even more teachers.

Gift #	Price	Description
42	\$12	Provides one teacher a free, one-year introductory subscription to YES! (four issues) plus a monthly email newsletter and curriculum guides for teaching about sustainability, peace, and justice.
43	\$36	Provides three teachers free, one-year introductory subscriptions to YES! (four issues) plus a monthly email newsletter and curriculum guides for teaching about sustainability, peace, and justice.

*“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with
your one wild and precious life?”*

- Mary Oliver

Gifts by Price

Price	Gift #	Description
\$8	5	Buys milk for a young child six days a week for a month through a program started by mothers in Balue, a village in southern Ometepe, and supported by the Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association.
\$10	20	Buys three jars of protein-rich peanut butter for Helpline House.
\$10	36	Allows the Snow Leopard Trust to vaccinate 10 head of livestock in northern Pakistan against common diseases. The profits from selling these healthy animals at market pay for schooling, food, and medicine.
\$12	4	Buys a new tire and inner tube for a donated bicycle.
\$12	23	Buys a workbook for a student in one of the Literacy Council of Kitsap County's English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) classes.
\$12	42	Provides one teacher a free, one-year introductory subscription to YES! (four issues) plus a monthly email newsletter and curriculum guides for teaching about sustainability, peace, and justice.
\$12.50	34	Brings clean water to ten families in Uganda's Kaberamaido District for a year through the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island's Ugandan wells program. This gift may be matched by more than \$30 in additional grants.
\$14	27	Provides paper and textbooks for a year for one girl in Afghanistan through CARE's Fast Track program.
\$15	18	Buys eight seed packets or five plants to grow vegetables for the food bank in the Helpline House pea patch.
\$15	15	Provides a family with a new baby served by North Kitsap Fishline half a case of diapers.

Price	Gift #	Description
\$20	37	Makes it possible for a woman in Mongolia to attend a skills training workshop through the Snow Leopard Trust where she'll learn how to use traditional arts to create items for western markets.
\$24	25	Using innovative, community-based programs, this gift to Mercy Corps provides an HIV-AIDS Awareness Kit to a community struggling with that global plague.
\$25	1	Buys a month's worth of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and other personal hygiene items for a woman who has fled an abusive situation and is living in the YWCA's ALIVE Shelter.
\$25	25	Buys diapers and other supplies for a baby or toddler who is staying with his mother in the YWCA's ALIVE Shelter after fleeing an abusive situation.
\$25	14	Covers the cost of one emergency food box for a family of four served by North Kitsap Fishline.
\$25	3	Covers the cost of shipping a donated bicycle from the port of Olympia to its new owner in northern Togo.
\$25	16	Buys a compass, clipboard, flagging tape, and boundary stakes for a Stewardship Kit used by one of the Great Peninsula Conservancy's volunteer Land Stewards to monitor the critical fish and wildlife habitat at Cowling Creek.
\$25	32	Unrestricted contribution to PATH's Catalyst Fund.
\$25	12	Unrestricted contribution to the First UU Church of New Orleans Building Fund.
\$28	21	Supplies a month's worth of food, clothing, accommodations and medical care for a child released from bonded labor and now enrolled at a residential school supported by the UU Holdeen India Program.

Gifts by Price (cont.)

Price	Gift #	Description
\$30	24	Buys a set of workbooks for each of the five General Equivalency Diploma (GED) subject areas for someone who didn't complete high school and is now working toward a GED with the Literacy Council of Kitsap County.
\$30	39	Provides shelter, medical care, and food for an orphaned, sick, or injured kingfisher for one week at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter.
\$30	26	Provides immunizations, nutrition, and health education programs for children and their families through Mercy Corps to eradicate such deadly but preventable diseases as tuberculosis and diarrhea.
\$30	22	Covers the cost of training and materials for one teacher at a <i>bhonga shala</i> , a temporary school at one of India's seasonal brick factories supported by the UU Holdeen India Program.
\$34	6	Renews a subscription for one year to the Spanish-language version of <i>National Geographic</i> in one of Ometepe's ten high schools.
\$35	9	Gives a below-the-knee prosthetic to a landmine survivor on the Thai-Burma border through Clear Path International.
\$36	43	Provides three teachers free, one-year introductory subscriptions to YES! (four issues) plus a monthly email newsletter and curriculum guides for teaching about sustainability, peace, and justice.
\$40	28	Buys one month of school supplies for a classroom with as many as 25 girls in Afghanistan through CARE's Fast Track program.
\$40	30	Provides five adolescent girls with a year's support and tutoring from a female mentor through CARE's <i>Educational Pathways for South Sudanese Girls</i> program.

Price	Gift #	Description
\$40	29	Gives a woman in Niger access to a village savings and loan program through CARE's Women on the Move program, allowing her to start a small income-generating business such as grain storage, mat weaving, or food preparation.
\$45	19	Pays for an hour of supervision and counseling time for people with developmental disabilities who want to work in the Helpline House pea patch.
\$50	17	Buys protection through the Great Peninsula Conservancy for one foot of choice spawning gravel in Chico Creek, a habitat that supports 35,000 returning salmon each year.
\$50	38	Sends one child in the Kyrgyz Republic to a week-long Eco Summer Camp sponsored by the Snow Leopard Trust where she can learn about her special mountain environment while enjoying a rare opportunity to make connections with children in other villages.
\$50	10	Pays for a year of school for a Vietnamese child injured by a landmine. This gift will be doubled as it qualifies for a matching grant for Clear Path International from the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.
\$62.50	35	Brings clean water to 50 families in Uganda's Kaberamaido District for a year through the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island's Ugandan wells program. This gift may be matched by more than \$150 in additional grants.
\$75	40	Provides shelter, medical care, and food for one orphaned, sick, or injured baby raccoon for one week at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter.
\$80	31	Supplies a year's worth of textbooks to ten girls in one of the new community schools created by CARE's Educational Pathways for South Sudanese Girls program.

Gifts by Price (cont.)

Price	Gift #	Description
\$80	7	Underwrites a month of college for a high school graduate from Ometepe. More than three dozen teachers, doctors, social workers, and others have graduated from college because of this Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association program since 1990.
\$100	13	Unrestricted contribution to the First UU Church of New Orleans Building Fund
\$100	33	Unrestricted contribution to PATH's Catalyst Fund.
\$100	11	Buys a cow for the family of a landmine survivor in Vietnam, dramatically increasing their household income. This gift will be doubled as it qualifies for a matching grant for Clear Path International from the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.
\$125	8	Builds a latrine for a family in the town of San Marcos, bringing tremendous health benefits to that family and their entire community .
\$125	41	Provides shelter, medical care, and food for one orphaned, sick, or injured bald eagle for one week at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter.

About Us

The Alternative Gift Project is an annual project undertaken by the Social Action Committee of Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church on Bainbridge Island, WA. Cedars UU Church is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our guiding principles include:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

For more information about our church and other activities go to www.cedarsuuchurch.org or come join us at The Playhouse in downtown Winslow for Sunday services. We meet every week at 10 am.

Visit us at the Bainbridge Commons for our First Annual

Global Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 25

10 am - 4pm

and Sunday, November 26

1 pm - 4pm

Fair-trade treasures from Ten Thousand Villages, BeadforLife, Snow Leopard Trust, Sí a la Vida, and other organizations as well as a complete selection of AGP 2006 cards and gifts.

Buy Now for Year-Round Giving

Alternative gifts can be given throughout the year for a variety of holidays. Consider buying now for Mother's Day, Father's Day, special birthdays, and any other gift-giving holidays you celebrate.

If you are interested in purchasing additional cards from the Alternative Gift Project for gift giving or your own notes, they are available for \$2 each or in a pack of 6 for \$10. Each card contains one of the following meaningful quotations:

*"I dwell in possibility."
- Emily Dickenson*

*"How far that little candle throws his beams!
So shines a good deed in a weary world."
- William Shakespeare*

*"Act is if what you do makes a difference. It does."
- William James*

*"To think is easy. To act is hard. But the hardest thing in
the world is to act in accordance with your thinking."
- Goethe*

*"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."
- Mahatma Gandhi*

*"Do what you can with what you have, where you are."
- Theodore Roosevelt*

Please note: the purchase of alternative gifts supports the entire mission of the organizations those gifts benefit. Although every effort will be made by the organizations to use the money for the purposes intended, it will sometimes be used for related purposes to meet urgent needs.

Sometimes

*Sometimes things don't go, after all,
From bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
Faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail,
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.*

*A people sometimes will step back from war;
Elect an honest man; decide they care
Enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they are born for.*

*Sometimes our best efforts do not go
Amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
That seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you.*

© Sheenagh Pugh

Reprinted here by permission of the author.



P.O. Box 10175
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
www.cedarsuuchurch.org