

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light."

— Albert Schweitzer

### DEAR FRIENDS,

Challenges do not discriminate; we have all faced them to one degree or another. You and I are fortunate in many ways though: we can go to our kitchen and get a glass of water, open the refrigerator and there is food, we have comfortable homes to live in; yet so many worldwide are still without these basic things. We still have work to do, and we need you!

To help someone in need is the most human thing we can do. Let's consider the profound effect that one simple act of kindness (like giving an alternative gift) can have on someone in need. A gift of livestock that transforms a woman's life so she can give her children a better future, or a water well installed in a village so a young girl doesn't have to fetch water anymore... and can possibly go to school.

We are so grateful for your support and participation. Your gifts change lives, whether you host a gift market (online or physical) at your church/school, or give business client gifts, or if you are starting a new meaningful gift tradition in your family, every gift matters.

Thank you for helping us rekindle the light for so many human beings in need worldwide, and we are so grateful that you inspire others to do the same through the simple act of gifting alternatively.

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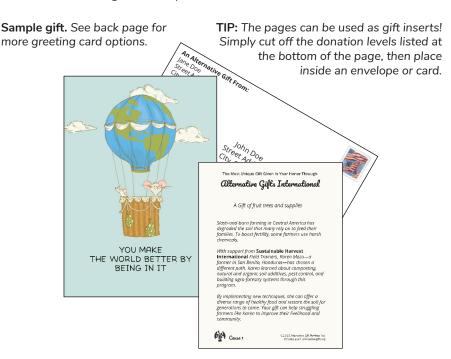
Prayerfully onward,

Surinder Kaur Executive Director

### WHAT IS AN

### Alternative Gift?

An alternative gift is a charitable donation designated in honor of someone else. Gift recipients receive a description of the gift made in their name. The gift options in this catalog, offered through partnership with carefully vetted nonprofit organizations, create sustainable change and impact lives around the world.



#### How to Order a Gift:

- 1. Browse the catalog
- Select your Cause(s)
- Choose a greeting card (see pages L & M)
- 4. Tell us where to mail the gift!



Order by phone: 800.842.2243



Order by mail: P.O. Box 3810 Wichita, KS 67201



Order online: alternativegifts.org

\$2 - send card & insert to yourself

\$3 - let us inscribe and send the card to someone for you

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

### **OUR CAUSES**

#### **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**



- 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**



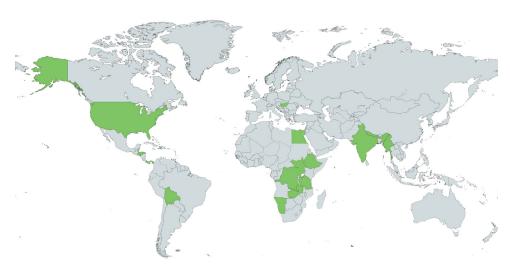
- 17. Life-Saving Backpack Medics Burma (Myanmar)
- 18. Bikes Change Communities Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia
- 19. The Gift Of Sight Global
- 20. Walk To School: No More Crawling DR Congo

#### Did you know?

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

### **CAUSE LOCATIONS**

AGI partners with proven organizations operating in communities worldwide. For over 35 years, our impact has stretched around the globe. Highlighted below are the 17 countries we are focusing on this year. We also have five globally focused causes.



Thank you to our catalog sponsor:











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.

A blanket

\$5,500 Build a home for a family











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)

\$ 18Z
A sewing machine

\$1,105
Full training course
& sewing course (3 women)











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)











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









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

Photo Credit: Timur Weber









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 ageappropriate therapy, as well as other basic needs for Ukrainian refugee children and mothers.

**\$14** 

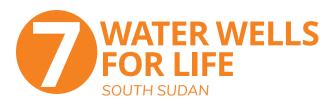
Food or therapy session for one child

**\$132** 

Food or therapy session for 10 children

\$1,056

Group therapy for 20 children (1 month)











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















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















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















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









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.

30 books

150 books

Stock an entire library









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.

\$58
Tuition & school lunch
(1 mth)

\$88
Supplemental nutrition to take home (1 year)

\$1,320
One year of college tuition











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, Kwiyagat 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













**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!

A backpack

School shoes & uniform

Education for 5 students (1 year)











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 guarter 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.

Plants 25 trees

Plants 50 trees















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.

\$55 Starts a kitchen garden \$82
One Eco-stove

\$1,100
Training in organic farming & soil conservation







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.

Anti-malarial treatment

Penicillin for 1 team (6 months)

Medical supply items (1 year)











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 lifesaving 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









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!

Eye exam and glasses (1 child)

\$33 Gift of sight (2 children)









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

Leg straps & 1 month of school fees

\$110 \$8,800
One half-length leg brace Education for 25 children

### ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

### How it all began...



Harriet's "Alternative Gift" model allows people to give a gift of dignity; a hand up to those who are suffering so that they may work toward self-suffiency.

When Harriet Prichard organized the first gift market, children and adults sold and purchased charitable gifts for communities in developing nations. Cards were inscribed with descriptions of the gifts and sent to friends and relatives to inform them that an alternative gift was given in their honor.

Today, we have many helpers volunteering to achieve the mission, but to continue the mission, we need your help. Our dedicated supporters are essential to helping us deliver relief and support to the poorest of the poor. Alternative gifts go beyond just the moment you give.

You can inspire a loved one by giving in their honor, or go even further by organizing a gift market in your community! Friends, neighbors, church groups, coworkers, sororities and fraternities—anyone can change the world, one gift at a time.

### WHAT IS AN Alternative Gift **MARKET?**

An Alternative Gift Market is a fundraiser that supports Causes from this catalog and your community.

Local markets are often held in community spaces and feature booths where donors can support Causes in a fair-style event. Shoppers receive handmade ornaments created by market volunteers, and paper gift inserts (describing the donation) that can be sent inside a selected greeting card. These events can happen any time of year!



\*Visit our website for more information and resources\*

### Unite, Engage and Do Good

If you are interested in coordinating a market, AGI staff and seasoned volunteers are available to guide you. Our Gift Market packet will walk you through how to host a market from beginning to end. After coordinating an Alternative Gift Market, you may nominate a local food pantry or homeless shelter to receive a grant from AGI. Call (800) 842-2243 or email markets@alternativegifts. org to volunteer!

### **CREATE YOUR ONLINE FUNDRAISER**

Our crowdfund tool allows you to create an online fundraiser to raise money for the Causes you believe in and invite others to join you in giving. In just a few minutes, you can create a fundraising page and begin changing the world!



Companies can engage employees in a shared purpose and celebrate when the goal is met.



Photo Credit: canstock- nruboc

Need help? Our staff can assist you with creating your personalized page. Call 800.842.2243

# IN JUST 3 SIMPLE STEPS:



#### 1. Choose Your Causes

Read about the Causes in this catalog or by visiting the AGI website, then select which one(s) you want to fundraise for.



#### 2. Create Your Page

Start your personal or organization's crowdfund at: alternativegifts.org/giving/crowdfunding



### 3. Invite People To Support Your Fundraiser

Promote your crowdfund page by sharing the link through social media, email, and text messages. A free social media marketing guide is available on the Market Resources page on the AGI website.



Schools can encourage students to learn the joy and impact of making a positive difference!

A church can host an online giving event on its website and email the link to the congregation.



Photo Credit: TPsimmons777

### **GIFT CARDS**

Gift cards are a great way to celebrate or show appreciation! They are an excellent option for birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, special occasions, or to say "thank you".

Looking for pro-social client and employee gifts? Call (800) 842-2243 to personalize alternative gift cards for your business!

Alternative gift cards allow your gift recipient to choose which project(s) or cause(s) they are most passionate about.

Reduce paper waste by sending an e-Gift Card through email! Order online at alternativegifts.org/giving/gift-cards



### **INCREASE YOUR IMPACT!**



#### **Recurring Giving**

Increase your impact through sustainable year-round giving! By enrolling in weekly, monthly, or quarterly giving, you can make a lasting difference for people around the world. You select the amount you wish to give and can change or cancel the gift anytime.

Causes currently available for recurring support: 5, 8, 9 & 10.

To sign up for recurring giving, visit: alternativegifts.org/giving/gifting/causes

#### Volunteer with Us!

Contribute to the mission and work of AGI by giving of your time, skills, and experience. Whether your passion lies in creating content, public speaking, social media contributor, organizing, or strategizing, AGI has volunteer opportunities for you!

To find out what opportunities are available, email: volunteer@alternativegifts.org



#### Imagine making Double the impact through your donation?

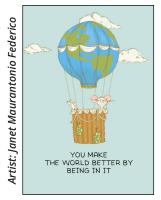
Many companies will match employee charitable gift contributions and team fundraisers. Your donation or crowdfund campaign can have DOUBLE the impact when your company agrees to match the donation!

Request a matching gift document from your Human Resources department, complete your portion of the form, and mail it to:

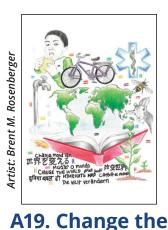
> **Alternative Gifts International** P.O. Box 3810 Wichita, KS 67201

### **GREETING CARDS**

Choose a beautiful greeting card to hold your gift insert. View more options online at: alternativegifts.org/giving/gifting/cards



SEND ANY CARD AS AN E-CARD!



A21. You Make the World Better

World
A Simple Gift = Change



A4. Blossoms
This gift is but a seed - a
flower's tiny start. May it
so bloom and flourish as to
blossom in your heart.



**A20. African Grace**"If you find it in your heart to care for someone else, you will have succeeded."

- Maya Angelou

### **GREETING CARDS**

#### SEND ANY CARD AS AN E-CARD!

E-gifts are FREE to send with any donation amount. Select "Send By Email" when you add a greeting card to your gift.



A1. Leaves One touch of nature makes the whole world kin. - William Shakespeare



A16. Nature Blank inside



A17. Peace Blank inside



H18. Glory to the **New Born King** Blank inside

## Legacy Gifts

Create a legacy in your lifetime and beyond...

Give a bequest, leave a charitable gift annuity, name AGI as a beneficiary of your retirement account, or consider another form of planned giving.

Consult your attorney or financial advisor to contribute to the endowment of AGI and provide renewable support for the future.

We're here to help: agi@alternativegifts.org

Photo Credit: Marta Dzedyshko

# **OUR MISSION**

AGI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire donors the option to designate charitable gifts through carefullysupport for humanitarian and environmental Causes. We offer selected agencies in the name of their relatives, friends and associates.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** 

www.alternativegifts.org 800.842.2243 © 2023-2024 Alternative Gift Markets, Inc.







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With Us!

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