



Alternative Gifts International

www.alternativegifts.org

April 2008



Celebrate Earth Day 2008!

Earth Day, which began as a day of national environmental recognition, has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment. Celebrated on April 22nd, Earth Day is a perfect time to reflect about what you are doing to help protect the environment. Learn about how you can make a difference for environmental protection all the time and put it into practice - every day!

AGI's Environmental Projects

One of the earth's most critical environmental problems today is deforestation. In many areas, trees are being cut down at a horrific rate without being replaced. It is estimated that nearly half of the earth's forests have disappeared in the name of human "development." Land once lush with forest cover, now denuded of trees, is prone to erosion, flooding and a host of other problems.

The following projects address critical environmental issues in important ways:

- [Healthy Stoves / Haiti](#) – Empower Haitians to cook their meager meals of rice and beans on a fuel-efficient stove without health hazards. (Project 4)
- [Plant a Forest / Haiti](#) – Nurture, plant and protect thousands of new trees for reforestation, so that Haiti can stop the erosion of its topsoil, and feed its people. (Project 5)
- [Rescue a River / Haiti](#) – Improve health in rural Bolivia by funding the distribution of surplus medical supplies and equipment to new village clinics. (Project 6)



"When the soil is exposed, it is crying out for help, it is naked and needs to be clothed." -- Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Photo: Floresta.



Dian Fossey receives a friendly touch from Puck, a matriarch in one of the gorilla families she observed for many years.

Photo: The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

- [Gorilla Protection / Rwanda](#) – Gorillas are in constant peril from poachers, hunters, threats of disease, and deforestation from human encroachment. Hire and train anti-poaching patrol workers to protect vulnerable gorillas. (Project 7)

Participate in \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger

REMEMBER: during the remainder of April, your gifts to [Project 9 – Soothe Their Hunger Pangs / USA](#) will be matched by the Feinstein Foundation! Send your gifts to AGI, and we will report them for our match. www.feinsteinfoundation.org.



Earth Day Activities for Children

Download our special [“Children’s Shopping List for Earth Day”](#) that includes wonderful games, puzzles and activities for five of our environmental projects. And, remember, you can make every day Earth Day by practicing the three R’s: reduce, reuse and recycle!



Great Plains Nature Center Alternative Gift Market for Earth Day

During the entire month of April, the [Great Plains Nature Center](#) in Wichita, Kansas is holding an Alternative Gift Market featuring AGI’s environmental projects for children. They have been having so much fun with the children that have visited their market. Pictured is a Pre-K class that brought \$35 in coins they had been collecting. Also pictured are two decorative cube displays they set up in their lobby – one for [Rocket Stoves / Haiti](#) and the other for [Bikes for Women and Girls / Tanzania & Namibia](#).



Recycle Your Old Cell Phones

Cell phones contain a number of hazardous substances that can impact the environment when discarded. Today there are over 233 million cell phones in use in the USA. On average, a person uses their phone for about 1 1/2 years, which means that over 150 million phones are replaced every year. So, what's happening with those 150 million phones? A lot of people just keep them in their junk drawers at home, but most people throw them in the trash and they end up in a landfill, where toxic substances can leach into the environment – into soil, into water, and into the air.



Here are some easy and environmentally responsible ways to recycle your old cell phones:

- Manufacturers and retailers will take back old cell phones.
- Sell it.
- Donate it.
- Search the web for recycling programs that donate money towards a charity for each cell phone sent for recycling.

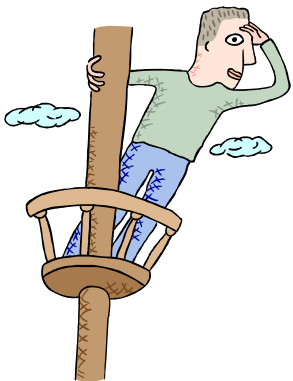
AGM's Help Locally

This is the time of year you can show your community how your Alternative Gift Market also helps at home! An AGM can nominate a shelter or food pantry in their community to receive a grant of \$4,000 to \$5,000. See the guidelines and/or nomination form for the mini-grants to emergency food pantries and homeless shelters. There are various kinds of shelters that may qualify, so don't overlook various kinds. AGI likes to share the generosity of our donors in as many regions of the country as possible!

[Click here for Pantry/Shelter Application Procedures and Nomination form](#)

Reminder: Project E-liminate Paper Waste

Please let us know if you prefer to read our newsletters, annual reports, and catalogs on-line. You can opt out of paper mailings by sending an email to AGI@alternativegifts.org with your name and address where you receive the materials. Let us know which materials you do not want to receive by 'snail' mail.



Looking Ahead

Remember, when sending alternative gifts, you can also set up a gift registry for yourself or someone else, or purchase a gift certificate so the recipient can select their own project designation.

May 11 – Mother's Day

May Graduations

May 28 – Memorial Day

Imagine what a difference it could make if every one of AGI's donors gave just \$5 or \$10 in celebration of Mother Earth!

Give a gift today to empower people in crisis, protect our planet and build peace in our global village.