



Alternative Gifts International

www.alternativegifts.org

February/March 2008

Spring into the Season by sending Alternative Gifts!

Springtime calls us out of our long winter hibernation. It is a time for new life as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Easter, or observe the Spring Equinox (March 20) with feasts and ceremonies. One of my favorite things about this season is the welcoming sounds of the returning birds – their chirps, peeps, caws and singing – announcing the arrival of spring. A multitude of small green shoots are breaking through the ground forming the first blossoms of the season – soon to be bursting with gorgeous colors and fragrances that will fill our neighborhoods. As we observe the new life flourishing all around us, it is easy to smile and have renewed hope for the future. Life is good! Enjoy the moment! Celebrate this season of hope and new life by sending alternative gifts to honor your friends and family. [Click here to choose from 35 projects in AGI's catalog](#) or we suggest gifts of Sustainable Development, below:



Dorothy teaches a class of young children in her private school, where the student-teacher ratio is 30:1, as compared to 70:1 in government schools.

- [“My Bank” Micro-Loans / Malawi](#) – Give hope to poor women by empowering them to provide for their children and the AIDs orphans they adopt. (Project 30)
- [Cows & Carts / Mozambique](#) – Improve farming, transportation and nutrition for isolated refugees so they can pull themselves out of the mire of poverty. (Project 27)
- [Say CHEESE / Peru](#) – Help Andean cheese makers to move from subsistence agriculture to income-generating agriculture by improving their dairy farming practices. (Project 28)
- [Equip a Clinic / Bolivia](#) – Improve health in rural Bolivia by funding the distribution of surplus medical supplies and equipment to new village clinics. (Project 29)
- [Green Justice / Haiti](#) – Empower Haitian peasant groups and several environmental agencies to build together a national environmental initiative. (Project 31)



Donate to Project 9 in March and April to Participate in \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger

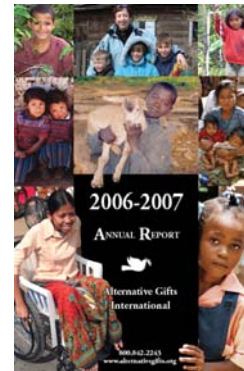
Monies received for Project 9 – Soothe Their Hunger Pangs / USA in March and April will be matched (on a shared percentage) by the Feinstein Foundation to fight hunger in the U.S. To find out more about the Feinstein Challenge, go to www.feinsteinfoundation.org.

Calling All Artists

Want to show off your creative design skills? AGI is having a greeting card design contest and will be selecting two new card designs with prizes of \$250 each. If you are an artist or know someone that can produce card quality art, please pass this on! [Click here to download](#) an entry form and contest rules. Deadline for entries is April 14!

Announcing AGI's New Annual Report

The donations given so compassionately by AGI's donors in 2007 have touched the lives of thousands of poor families and helped to restore and renew our planet. Read about the results of your generous gifts in our [2006-2007 Annual Report](#) online. If you do not receive a copy in the mail in the next three weeks and would like to receive a hard copy, please call us at 800-842-2243. We could not be where we are today without your generous support! Thank you!



Emergency Disaster Relief

AGI's Emergency Disaster Relief fund provides essential supplies during global emergencies. Recent distributions of EDR funds were sent to the following agencies:

Lutheran World Relief (LWR):

\$2,000 to refugees in Columbia - The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Columbia is second only to Sudan's, and the UN has called Colombia's humanitarian crisis the worst in the western hemisphere. LWR is working to help IDPs establish sustainable livelihoods and is providing community-based activities to promote conflict resolution and alternatives to violence.

\$2,000 to refugees in Uganda - LWR is working to develop income-generating projects and food security for the approximately 300,000 returning refugees in Uganda.

Christian Friends of Korea (CFK):

\$2,000 for TB Medicine in N. Korea - The number of TB patients in North Korea is increasing at alarming rates and more medicine is desperately needed. CFK is sending life-saving TB specific medicines to treat thousands of people suffering from tuberculosis – a deadly but treatable disease.

Floresta:

\$2,000 to Hurricane Noel victims in Haiti & Dominican Republic – At the end of October 2007, Hurricane Noel passed through the Dominican Republic and Haiti causing many deaths and leaving thousands of people without homes and economic livelihoods. The Island of Hispaniola, which Haiti and the Dominican Republic share, is rich in agriculture with an abundance of plantain, tomato and banana plantations. The storm left 95 percent damage to plantations, leaving Dominicans and Haitians rummaging for food. Floresta is them to rebuild and regain sustainable sources of income.

To respond to the desperate needs of victims of disasters around the world, [click here to give \\$20 shares to AGI's Emergency Disaster Relief fund.](#)

Looking Ahead

April 22 - Earth Day

To celebrate this coming Earth Day, download our special "[Children's Shopping List for Earth Day](#)" that includes 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.

April 23 – Administrative Professional's Day

If you're an employer or supervisor, chances are you've wondered how best to observe Administrative Professional's Day. Honor all of your hardworking administrative professionals with alternative gifts that work hard to provide help to people in crisis, protect the environment, and build peace with our global neighbors.

**Imagine what a difference it could make
if every one of AGI's donors gave just \$5 or \$10
in celebration of this season of hope and new life!**

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