



# Alternative Gifts International

October 2008 Newsletter • [www.alternativegifts.org](http://www.alternativegifts.org) • 800.842.2243

## 'Tis the Season

Here are some ideas of how our donors use AGI catalogs and materials to prepare for the holidays.

- Draw names at your office; give each employee a catalog or share a few catalogs.
- Hold a 'catalog' party; order the posters or the CD so you can print your own; have boxes wrapped as 'gifts' for decorations; discuss the kinds of gifts guests always hated to receive most, and then discuss how alternative gifts provide a better solution. Select your gifts. You could be a really popular host/ hostess if you coordinate the purchases together and send all the orders in to AGI. Order bulk cards, too, so they get all their gifts and cards at once!
- Let every adult child and grandchild select the gift they want in advance.
- Use gift certificates; recipients can receive the gift certificate by e-mail and select the project from the Web site or we can send a card, paper gift certificate and catalog.
- Choose four projects or categories—one for each Sunday in Advent. Send a note home in advance with the children, collections for each day go to that project.
- Make a pledge for each of the twelve days of Christmas.
- A teacher buys cards & an insert for each student and gives a flat donation for a specific project.
- Retirement centers have catalogs available to their residents.
- Small businesses use AGI cards and gifts to thank their customers or clients.
- Teachers create a unit theme around a project and ask that all students donate the money they might spend on a gift for the teacher for the holiday. This could be the "Year of the Yak" in Tibet. Or the class could set a goal to purchase the chicken coop with hens for a school in Bolivia.
- One school collected money for a service project all year long, and at the end of the year, students voted for which AGI projects they wanted to fund.



## UPDATE on the COALITION

progress reported by the

**Haitian National Coalition for the Environment**

- Tree planting/reforestation with enhanced food security, concentrating on Haiti's 33 watersheds.
- Alternative energy and cooking methods.
- Awareness-raising and continuing education (in the form of a caravan).

**A Coordinating Committee was elected and has met regularly.**

- Meetings in each of Haiti's ten departments were scheduled and most have been completed.
- A directory of organizations working on the Haitian environment was assembled.
- A Web site was launched, acting as an information clearinghouse for the Coalition.
- Grassroots partners planted 30,000 trees in 2007 and continue to increase their capacity to contribute to the reforestation of Haiti.

**Konpay**, a non-profit based in Jacmel, Haiti, has been selected to act in the coordinating role with the Coalition, formed in July 2007. At that time, more than 60 participants from 36 organizations gathered together and reached consensus about the major focus of the coalition:

In June 2008, donations from the 2007-08 AGI catalog year were distributed to several agencies with featured projects. AGI continues to examine ways to provide strategic support to the Coalition and promote its development and independence.

# What on Earth Are Millennium Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (UNMDG) are a unique opportunity to finally end poverty. Below are three of the eight UNMDG, which AGI is highlighting in the annual catalog. For more information, see [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals).



## October

We ask you to choose one or more projects that support the **Education goal**: to achieve universal primary education. Specifically, to make it possible for every person to have access to at least a 6th grade education. Consider what might be achieved for the cost of one extra pair of shoes we purchase for a special school dance or play could do if it was instead sent to support Project 14, 19 or 31.



## November

As we celebrate the gathering of the harvest, good food & family, we suggest that you choose one or more projects that support the **Hunger/Poverty goal**: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger—in the entire world. Think what the cost of one extra bottle of wine or rich dessert for Thanksgiving might accomplish instead if you send it to support Project 6, 11 or 33.



## December

Since December 1 is World AIDS day, we suggest that this month of parties with co-workers, friends, family and faith celebrations also includes compassion through your support of the **Health goal**: to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. An AIDS diagnosis is no longer a death sentence for children in Asia and Africa because we can provide medication that can save lives. Discuss with your colleagues what donating the cost of one office Christmas party to Project 4, 10 or 18 could do.

Have you seen the **NEW Children's Activity Book**? Download a copy from our web site or call 800.842.2243 to request a master for your class!

**Note:** To request a special UNMDG pledge order form, please call AGI at 800.842.2243. Recipient gift cards are available for these orders.



## do you facebook?

### Become a member of AGI's group on facebook!

- Talk to Market Coordinators about how you can help improve your world!
- Share market and advertising tips that have helped you hold a successful market!
- Help AGI improve future market material by leaving posts with design ideas and feedback!
- Join a group dedicated to meeting the needs of people around the world!

Type 'Alternative Gifts International' in the search bar, then **JOIN GROUP!**