



# Give gifts for the greater good

## Website connects you with charities all around the world

**A**s the old saying goes: “It is better to give than to receive.” Anyone who has ever watched a loved one open a much-needed or especially thoughtful gift certainly would agree.

Unfortunately, there are too many people in the world who are in a position of needing to receive more than they are able to give. Poverty often is caused by factors beyond a person’s control. Corrupt or incompetent government, changing economic conditions, environmental disasters, illness, accidents or the misfortune of being born in the wrong place all can impact a person’s ability to support themselves or a family.



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*InSites*

Alternative Gifts International is a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities on its website — [alternativegifts.org](http://alternativegifts.org) — to help improve the lives of people living in poverty at home and abroad. Even modest donations can have big impacts in many situations.

If you are fortunate enough that you can afford to celebrate the holidays with gift giving, consider expanding your circle of recipients to those with the most dire needs.

The site functions as an online marketplace for 30 charities dedicated to fighting poverty and environmental problems. You can review the different causes and pick one that best matches the concerns of the person you want to give a gift on behalf of.

That’s the “alternative” in Alternative Gifts. Instead of giving a gift to individuals, you donate to a cause they support. They receive a nice card informing them of the gift in their name. Or you can send them a gift card that lets them donate to a charity of their choosing from the site.

The causes you can choose from cover a variety of issues. You can help provide lunches

and textbooks for underprivileged students; feed the hungry and homeless; buy livestock or seeds for gardens to help people feed themselves; fund classes that teach skills to help people become self sufficient; support efforts to clean water, plant forests and preserve land; aid with disaster relief; or even help free children from sex trafficking.

Each image in the gallery of causes links to a page that describes the need and how to help. There are buttons with suggested donations and a description of what that donation will provide. The lowest option for most causes is close to what you might spend on

lunch for yourself. You also can give any amount you choose.

A little money can go a long way when it’s combined with other donations in an impoverished area. The charities help people all around the world, including our fellow Americans.

[Alternativegifts.org](http://Alternativegifts.org) is a nicely designed and well-organized site. The navigation is logical, and the photos will tug at your heartstrings.

Tis the season of giving. If you can afford it, this site makes it easy to give to those who really need help.

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