



Shopping for Justice . . .

Responsible Shopping


Normally we have waited till closer to Christmas to list resources for responsible shopping. No, we are not trying to compete with the Back to School sales but want to give you a “heads-up” since placing orders takes more time. I also want to alert you to local opportunities. There is no need to buy items made in sweatshops.

Local Opportunities - Fond du Lac, WI

In Fond du Lac, there will be a Christmas Fair Trade Gift Shop during November and December at the 1st Presbyterian Church at 1225 Fourth St. It will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:30 am to 1:30 PM.

Another opportunity in Fond du Lac is the Alternative Giving Fair on December 3, 2006, at Holy Family, Ascension Lutheran, 1st Presbyterian and Pilgrim United Church of Christ. Alternative Giving is a choice to donate money to a charitable organization instead of buying a traditional gift that a person may not need or really want. Instead the money could honor the recipient by helping the poor or the environment.

1. Eco-Friendly Holiday Ideas

- Make a book of family recipes by inserting recipe sheets into clear plastic holders (to keep them clean when cooking) and assembling them in a binder.
 - Donate something in the name of a friend or relative in a subject area of interest (such as literacy training or protecting rainforests).
 - Get tickets to an exhibit or membership to a museum.
 - Give a certificate to a used book or music store.
 - Give an adventure or experience (a day of hiking or canoeing, for example).
 - Make a personal voucher or certificate entitling the bearer to something good (use your imagination!).
 - Make dinner for someone or cook other homemade food and deliver it.
 - Give a gift membership to an organization that helps protect the environment.
 - Give solar gifts such as solar toys, outdoor lights, cell phone chargers, radios, watches, cookers, etc..
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2. Empowering Women's Future: AIDS Orphans Sewing Project in Tanzania, East Africa. Contact S. Stella Storch at sstorch@csasisters.org to make a donation, buy blouses, shirts and women's dresses made by orphans.

3. Habanahaba - (Little by little) sells pillows, table runners, etc...made by poor women and AIDS orphans in Tanzania, East Africa, www.habanahaba.org

4. Nicaraguan Gold Honey (organic) is project of Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. You can purchase a 12-ounce jar for \$10 by contacting Jack Shanahan at (920) 921-5162 or shanahj@charter.net.

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5. **Alternative Gifts International (AGI)** has its brand new catalog on its web site www.altgifts.org. It allows you to buy building materials, medicines, wheelchairs, seeds, relief for orphans and so much more.



6. **Heifer Project** is a nonprofit international organization that helps to alleviate hunger. You can give chickens, a pig, sheep or most any other animal to a family in need. Their web site is www.heifer.org.



7. **A Greater Gift** (formerly SERRV) is a nonprofit organization promoting the social and economic progress of people in developing countries of the world by purchasing and marketing their crafts, fair trade coffee and chocolates. Call (800) 685-7572 or go to www.agreatergift.org.



8. **Ten Thousand Villages (TTV)** is a nonprofit alternative trading organization that provides vital, fair income to the Third World people by selling handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Formerly known as SELFHELP craft, TTV sells handcrafted items from many diverse cultures around the world. Call (717) 859-8100 or go to www.tenthousandvillages.com.



9. Shop with a conscience at <http://swatch.igc.org/sweatfree> includes links to variety of companies that all sell items not made in sweatshops. One of them is Nueva Vida, a worker-owned cooperative in Nicaragua that produces items for Maggie's Organics. Although they mainly sell clothes (shirts, coats, socks, etc.... you can also find jewelry, footwear and coffee.)



10. Catholic Relief Services has web site www.crsfairtrade.org which sells many gifts.



11. Claretian Publications at <http://salt.claretianpubs.org/ie/2005/12/ie0512b.html> has a long list of ethical resources on the internet including Fair Trade Federation retail stores listed by state, and resources for Charitable Giving including Bread for the World, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services and many more. Links for making donations are provided.



12. EcoMall: A Place to Help Save the Earth at <http://www.ecomall.com> helps you to find just the right product among its hundreds of links.

Happy Shopping!