

# Gifts from the Heart

*Holiday Giving Catalog, 2008*

## *Why Alternative Giving?*

- It's Green!
- No one needs yet another mug or tie.
- You can save lives...

## *Choices for Gifts*

Meals on Wheels  
Nets for Life  
Dallas Community  
Lighthouse  
SPCA Operation  
Baghdad Pups  
Heifer Project  
The Renk  
Theological Institute

## Gifts from the Heart: Alternatives for Giving

Tired of the hectic rush to buy gifts that family and friends don't really want or need? Prefer to give a gift that can change a life – or save one?

This catalog shows you how far even small amounts of money can stretch when used by our church and its

partners to help people in need.

It's easy to honor someone with a gift that means more than one extra tie or pair of slippers.

Help children learn that giving gifts is about loving each other – love that spills over into love for all of God's people; love that means more than

yet another toy.

Giving should be joyful! Have fun with this catalog.

These unique gifts are for people in our community, our state, and our international world. They help protect our environment and the dignity of God's creation.

## Meals on Wheels

*Meals on Wheels* is an organization that provides meals to elderly individuals who are homebound. Illness, disability and frailness can make meal preparation an ordeal. In bygone days, people would share their daily supper with needy neighbors. Today, most of us work full-time and many of us do not know our neighbors. VNA

Meals on Wheels serves as that friendly neighbor or loving family member.

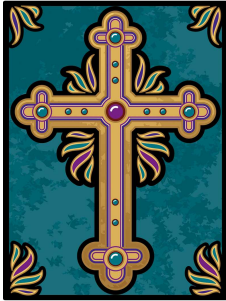
With the assistance of a cadre of community volunteers, VNA Meals on Wheels delivers more than 3,200 nutritious hot meals to homebound ill, elderly and disabled persons in Dallas County each day. In 2006, 5,747 clients received 853,858 home-

delivered meals prepared in VNA's Beatrice M. Haggerty Kitchen at a cost of **\$4.80 per meal.**

Today, the rising cost of gasoline is hampering their efforts to deliver meals, and your contribution can make a significant difference.

Visit their website at [www.vnatexas.org](http://www.vnatexas.org) for more information.

## Nets for Life



*Nets for Life* is an organization which, in partnership with Episcopal Relief and Development, provides mosquito nets to 16 African countries to prevent mosquito borne diseases, especially malaria. Malaria is the number one cause of death

among children under five. As of June 2008, *Nets for Life* has distributed nearly 800,000 nets and affected about 9.8 million people both directly and indirectly. When ERD reaches its original goal, to distribute 1 million nets to 15 countries by the end of

September 2008, it will set a new one: to distribute 5 million nets over five years in a total of 18 African countries. Your gift of **\$10 will buy and distribute one net.** Visit [www.netsforlifeafrica.org](http://www.netsforlifeafrica.org) for more information.

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*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

[1 John 3:17-18](#)

## Dallas Community Lighthouse

Dallas Community Lighthouse was organized as a non-profit organization in November 2002, to address one of the most profound problems in Dallas: *children not completing their education.* The programs, staff, director and Board of Directors are committed to the at-risk students of Dallas County and it is their goal to make a life long impact on these students.

**Mission:** "Assisting at-risk youths in discovering pathways to success by concentrating on their social, educational, personal and environmental issues."

**Vision:** To produce future, productive citizens of Dallas County.

Project "Kids Campus" is an on-site after school tutoring program located in low income or tax-credit apartment communities in

both North and South Dallas. The programs are tailored to the individual communities and provide educational services to both children and adults of the community.

**\$10 provides snacks for 2 children for a week. \$25 provides tutoring supplies for a month.**

For more info, visit [www.communitylighthouse.org](http://www.communitylighthouse.org)

## SPCA Operation Baghdad Pups

*Baghdad Pups* began with an email received on September 11, 2007. The desperate words of the US soldier serving in Iraq told of his desire to get the dog, Charlie, that he and his regiment had befriended out of the Middle East before their

tour of duty ended. Because it is against regulations for troops to befriend an animal or transport one on a military flight, the likelihood of saving him seemed doubtful. SPCA International intervened, and successfully rescued

Charlie and other dogs befriended by troops. Your donation contributes to food, boarding, airfare and other costs. Visit [www.baghdadpups.com](http://www.baghdadpups.com) for more information.

## Heifer Project

### Heifer envisions...

A world of communities living together in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy planet.

### Heifer's mission is...

To work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the globe.

### Heifer's History

This simple idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued for over 60 years. Today, millions of families in 128 countries have been given the gifts

of self-reliance and hope.

### Heifer's strategy is...

To "pass on the gift." As people share their animals' offspring with others – along with their knowledge, resources, and skills – an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe.

### Heifer's History

This simple idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued for over 60

years. Today, millions of families in 128 countries have been given the gifts of self-reliance and hope.

### How your gift helps:

**\$10 – one goat**

**\$20 – flock of chicks**

**\$50 – knitting basket**

**\$500 – one heifer**

Visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) for more information.



## The Renk Theological Institute

The church in Southern Sudan is probably the most rapidly growing church in the Anglican Communion and among the fastest growing churches in the world. As a result, the need for strong indigenous theological education has become acute.

Through the Renk Visiting Teachers Program, jointly sponsored by Duke Divinity School and Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), advanced students, graduates and faculty

teach for periods of two to six weeks at the Renk Theological College in Southern Sudan.

The needs at the school are acute – not just teachers and materials, but food for the students. Your donation can support students who reside at the school. There are currently 50 students enrolled with an additional 30 expected.

***The cost for one student per year is approximately \$2500.***

There are many other needs which include clean water and better facilities.

A donation of any amount will help.

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*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

[\*II Corinthians 9:7\*](#)

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## Did you know?

25: percent increase in the trash generated during the holiday season.

300 million: dollars spent in the USA on mass market women's bath gift sets.

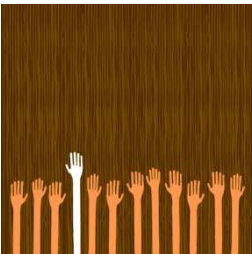
86: percent of TreeHugger.com readers who say their kids have too much stuff.

935: Average dollars spent by Americans, at Christmas, according to the American Consumer Credit Council.

## Ascension Outbound

**Ascension Outbound** is committed to making God's infinite love a living presence in our community, serving the needs of our neighbors and the world, with compassion, to transform lives and ignite a spirit of hope.

**Goal** -To build a solid foundation by which we at Ascension can initiate and sustain ministries that make a significant and sustainable difference in the lives of the poor and otherwise disadvantaged in our community *and the world.*



## Something to think about...

With an alternative Christmas gift, you honor your loved ones and make a difference in the lives of people around the world, all without a trip to the mall. Giving alternative Christmas gifts ensures that your gift won't sit on a shelf gathering dust, leaves no worries about whether you know what size the recipient wears, and won't be part of the next massive product recall. It's perfect for the

person who has "everything" and is sure to bring smiles - it can also make all the difference in the world.



**How this works**

Once you make your choices and donations, you will receive gift cards to present to the recipient.

Members of Ascension Outbound will be available each Sunday through December to accept your orders. The gift cards will be available for you in early December.

If you have questions, please contact:  
 Dabney Dwyer  
 Sue Ross  
 Audry Lee

Organization	Quantity	Donation	Subtotals
Meals on Wheels			
Nets for Life			
Dallas Comm Lighthouse			
Baghdad Pups			
Heifer Project			
Renk Theological Inst.			
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>			

**Make checks payable to:  
 Church of the Ascension**

<b>GIVER</b>
Name:
Address:
Phone:

<b>RECIPIENTS</b>
Name:
Name:
Name:
Name:
Name:
Name:
Name:
Name:



Church of the Ascension  
8787 Greenville Ave  
Dallas, TX 75243

PHONE:  
(214)340-4196

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ascensiondallas.org](http://www.ascensiondallas.org)

### ***About Episcopal Church of the Ascension***

Episcopal Church of the Ascension is an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community dedicated to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ through celebration of the Anglican tradition of liturgy, music, fellowship and outreach. We are committed to expanding the awareness of God's presence in the lives of everyone. We seek to reach out to all in our neighboring community with missions that witness to and celebrate our ever-growing faith in Jesus Christ.

We hope to become a light revealing to the world that diversity within Christ's Body deepens our experience of God and enriches our Christian Journey.

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension**

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