

15 Alternative Ideas for Holiday Giving

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These ideas are intended to spark your thinking and encourage you to imagine “new” gifts to share with family and friends.

1. Give the gift of time! Create an IOU for a trip to the movies, dinner, the Science Museum, the Art Museum, Whale watching, brunch after church, and then do it!
2. Use the Heifer Project to send rabbits, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, cows, llamas other farm animals to families around the world in your loved ones name!
3. Give a live plant or bulbs that can be planted outside in the warm weather.
4. Find old pictures of loved ones, have them restored and framed. This is a gift of memories as well as a keepsake all will treasure.
5. Create a mini-cookbook of favorite family recipes.
6. Give away a book you have enjoyed reading. Tell the recipient why you want to share it with them.
7. Count the gifts you give to loved ones and give an equal number to a battered women’s shelter or program for families of people in jail.
8. Make a donation to a local animal shelter instead of leaving cookies for the reindeer.
9. Give a membership to the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, National Geographic Society, Sierra Club or similar group. Recipients will think of you when their monthly magazine arrives and it will help the planet.
10. Take your family shopping for the City Mission Society Christmas Shop. Use half the money you would spend on gifts for each other to get gifts for someone else.
11. Use the money you might have spent on a large Christmas tree to help the homeless.
12. Count the gifts you give loved ones and give an equal number to a battered women’s shelter or program for families of people in jail.
13. Give a bird feeder and seeds. It helps the birds and can be enjoyed for years.
14. Bake cookies or make crafts with your children so that they have gifts they have made to share with family and friends.
15. Give a blessing. Find or write a prayer for the special people in your life.