



Gifts for a Better World

An Annotated Bibliography

Fair Trade/ “Sweat-Free”

A Greater Gift www.agreatergift.org (or 1-800-422-5915 to request a catalog)

A Greater Gift is a nonprofit program of SERRV International. They bring fair trade handcrafts and foods from around the world. They strive to promote living wages, women’s rights and eco-friendly production through partnerships with small-scale artisan and farmer groups. No child labor is used in making their products.

Co-op America National Green Pages www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages/

The *National Green Pages* is a directory listing nearly 3,000 businesses that have made firm commitments to sustainable, socially just principles, including the support of sweatshop-free labor, organic farms, fair trade, and cruelty-free products.

Global Exchange Fair Trade Store <http://store.gxonlinestore.org/>

The Global Exchange Fair Trade Stores feature products from around the world, with fair prices for consumers-- and fair prices paid to producers.

No Sweat <<http://nosweatapparel.com/>>

Bienestar International manufactures union-made footwear and casual clothing under the brand name No Sweat™. It is produced by independent trade union members in the United States, Canada, and the developing world. No Sweat is the pioneer of fair trade fashion and footwear, setting an empowered, unionized workforce as the gold standard for fair trade clothing.

Ten Thousand Villages www.tenthousandvillages.com

Ten Thousand Villages works with over 100 artisan groups in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to sell their fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more.

Simplifying the Holidays

Simplify the Holidays <http://www.newdream.org/holiday/simplify.pdf>

This guide from the *Center for A New American Dream* contains practical tips on meaningful ways to have more fun with less stuff for the holidays.

Food and Meals

Earth Dinner <http://www.earthdinner.org/>

Thanksgiving, and Christmas all have traditions involving family, friends, and of course, food. *Earth Dinner* helps you plan a joyful, animated, and inspiring theme dinner party connecting people to the earth, their food, and each other. Planning materials for Earth Dinner (including meal and conversation cards) can be found on this site.

Thanksgiving http://www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/newsletters/Oct2007_thanksgiving/default.asp

Thanksgiving has its roots in expressing gratitude for the harvest. And there are lots of ways to celebrate and be kind to the planet. This website offers some suggestions.

Equal Exchange <http://www.equalexchange.com/>

Equal Exchange is the oldest and largest for-profit Fair Trade company in the US. They offer organic, gourmet coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa, and chocolate bars produced by democratically run farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Friends of the Third World <http://www.friendsofthethirdworld.org/aboutus.html>

Friends of the Third World sells coffee, tea, nuts, dried fruits, grains and jams as well as baking and spice mixes purchased directly from cooperatives of low-income farmers or through other nonprofit alternative channels.

Women's Bean Project <<http://www.womensbeanproject.com/>>

The Women's Bean Project sells a delicious assortment of gifts of soups, spreads, and much more. A purchase of these products helps women in the United States break the cycle of poverty and unemployment.

For Kids

Progressive Kid <http://www.progressivekid.com/>

An online store for earth-friendly clothing, educational toys and more.

The Lion and Lamb Project <http://www.lionlamb.org/>

This site includes creative ideas and alternatives to violent toys for children.

Charitable Giving

Heifer International www.heifer.org (or 1-800-422-0474 to request a catalog)

In the name of a friend or loved-one, you can give a gift of sheep, rabbits, geese and other livestock to families in the developing world to provide a sustainable source of food, clothing and income.

First Giving www.firstgiving.com

First Giving allows you to select a recipient charity and then set up a giving page where friends and loved ones can donate to your cause, in lieu of purchasing gifts for you.

Seva Foundation www.seva.org (or call 1-800-223-7382 to request a catalog)

Give a "gifts of service" to your friends and family. *Seva* will use your donation to support the project of your choice (cataract surgeries for children in Asia and Africa; clean water and educational support to poor communities in Mexico, wellness programs for Native Americans, etc.) and will send a beautiful card with a description of your gift inside along with a personal message from you.

Kiva www.kiva.org

Make a micro-finance loan in honor of a family member or friend. *Kiva* lets individuals connect with and loan money to unique small businesses in the developing world. By choosing a business on *Kiva*, you can "sponsor a business" and help the world's working poor make strides toward economic independence. Throughout the course of the loan (usually 6-12 months), you receive e-mail journal updates from the business you've sponsored. As the loans are repaid, you get your money back.