

Get Creative with *Gifts for Life*

Here are some fun ideas for fellowship, and other ways the communities you serve as a Ministry Partner can support our [Gifts for Life](#) program:

- Organize a **read-a-thon**, **dance-a-thon** or **walk-a-thon**. Collect pledges from family and friends for each mile or hour of your activity.
- Organize a weekend **car wash** and use the proceeds to purchase *Gifts for Life*.
- Arrange a **silent auction** for your church and community members. Ask members of your congregation to donate items for the auction.
- Have your adult or children's Sunday school class host and make an inexpensive **dinner** with an admission charge. Decide together what *Gifts for Life* selections to purchase with the proceeds.
- Encourage your children to **write letters** to family members, friends, classmates and club or team members to raise money to purchase a special gift. Have them mention that the gift will make a difference for children in need.
- Sponsor a church or neighborhood **garage sale**. Gather gently used books, crafts, clothes and household goods to sell, and use the money you raise to purchase items from the *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- Hold a **wine-tasting** event and use the proceeds to purchase clean water or other basic needs for a family or community.
- Instead of going out to dinner with friends, hold a **potluck** and put the money saved into a basket. Then, go through the *Gifts for Life* catalog as a group and choose items based on the amount collected.
- Hold a **game night** and ask people to donate to participate. The group can then decide together what gifts to purchase with the collected funds.
- **"Get the Warden's Goat"**: Raise enough money to buy a goat in honor of your church's warden. In the same way, you can "get the priest's goat," the treasurer's, the auditor's or whomever you choose.
- **Another fun idea**: The next time you visit with your partners in the communities you serve, spend a little time telling them about additional and varied ways they can engage our *Gifts for Life* opportunity for gift giving. Instead of holding a regular family, office or group gift exchange, ask them to consider pooling funds that would have been spent and choose [Gifts for Life](#) as a group, or give gifts to everyone based on their various interests. For example:
 - * For your child's teacher: [Nurture & Nourish the Earliest Learners](#) or [Educate Children Orphaned by AIDS](#)
 - * For new parents or grandparents: [Care for Moms & Newborns](#)
 - * For an avid gardener: [Seeds, Tools & Training](#), [Fruit Trees](#) or a [Family Garden](#)

- * For a farmer: a [Cow](#), [Pig](#) or a [Flock of Chickens](#)
- * For someone in health care: [Emergency Food Relief](#) or [Disaster Relief Kit](#)
- * In honor of a baptism: [Clean Water](#)
- * For campers: [Mosquito Nets](#)
- * For a banker, accountant or church treasurer: [Micro-credit Loans for Women](#)

Adapted from a resource created by Barb Hagan, former Ministry Partner of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Find out how you can become a Ministry Partner by emailing us at engagement@episcopalrelief.org.