

Christ Church Alternative Gift Guide

Christmas is a season for giving in grateful recognition of the greatest gift we have received, Jesus Christ, God incarnate. This compilation of alternative gift ideas is meant to help any who wish to give a gift that brings Christmas blessings to those in need in our community and throughout the world. To purchase any of these gifts, please contact the particular agency directly. Donations can be mailed directly or submitted online. May you truly know the joy and spirit of Christmas this year!

A Child's Place (www.achildsplace.org)

A Child's Place (ACP) is a grassroots nonprofit working to erase the impact of homelessness on children and their education in Mecklenburg County, NC. ACP programs are focused on meeting the unique and varied needs of homeless students, so their school experience is as normal as possible while life outside of school is far from normal.

- \$5 Equals a week of after school snacks so a child won't be hungry
- \$50 Sends two ACP children on school field trips
- \$100 Secures a physical and dental exam for one child
- \$250 Buys new, warm coats for five children
- \$828 Covers ACP's costs for a year of services for one homeless child

BRIDGE Job Network (www.bridgecharlotte.org)

BRIDGE is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping high school drop outs, the unemployed and underemployed citizens of Mecklenburg County obtain long-term, career-enhancing employment by providing them with career counseling and support as they complete their education.

- \$10 Provides a bus pass
- \$25 Provides a GED book
- \$75 Sponsors a student for 1 week of class
- \$600 Sponsors a student for entire class session

Charlotte Community Health Clinic (<http://charlottecommunityhealthclinic.org>)

A private non-profit clinic that serves low-income, uninsured individuals in Mecklenburg County. They provide approximately 1,500 patient visits each month and are turning away 300 individuals/month requesting healthcare services.

- \$35 Test Strips for Diabetic Patient (3 months worth for 1 patient)
- \$50 1 Women's Clinic Visit (Mammogram and Pap Smear)
- \$100 Series of 4 Health Education Classes (for a Diabetic or Cardiovascular Patient)
- \$250 1 Month of Medical Support Services
- \$500 Annual Supplies for 1 Exam Room
- \$1,000 Adopt a patient for a year

Charlotte Family Housing (www.CharlotteFamilyHousing.org)

Charlotte Family Housing provides supportive transitional shelter and affordable housing for its families. Families work closely with social workers to receive intensive family-focused care and support such as vocational counseling, parenting skills and financial literacy. Charlotte Emergency Housing, Family Promise of Charlotte and the Workforce Initiative for Supportive Housing (W.I.S.H.) have merged to form Charlotte Family Housing, the city's only transitional shelter and housing agency focused solely on providing support to Charlotte's homeless families. CFW serves

- \$50 Provides a parent one month of transportation to work
- \$125 Provides one week of financial assistance for child care.
- \$250 Provides a family one month of support with a Masters-level social worker
- \$400 Supports one parent in a ten-week "Getting Ahead" workshop
- \$700 Provides a computer to help advance the education needs of a parent and child

Crisis Assistance Ministry (www.crisisassistance.org)

Crisis Assistance Ministry helps Charlotte-Mecklenburg families experiencing temporary financial setback escape the cycle of chronic poverty. Our agency provides immediate support in the form of emergency financial assistance, clothing, furniture, appliances and household essentials. Once a family's crisis is resolved, Crisis Assistance Ministry caseworkers and volunteers provide counseling and support services that will help a household move toward financial stability.

- \$20 Makes furniture and appliances available to re-house families emerging from homelessness
- \$50 Helps a family maintain running water in their household
- \$75 Provides clothing for a family of four
- \$100 Helps keep a family warm this winter by providing gas and electricity
- \$200 Helps prevent a family's eviction, keeping them off the streets and out of overcrowded homeless shelters

Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte (www.habitatcharlotte.org)

Habitat Charlotte partners with local families in need to build, rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing and homeownership opportunities in the Charlotte community. Based on a Christian mission, we work in partnership with people from all walks of life to help them grow into all that God intended.

- \$25 Bucket of roofing nails
- \$100 One window
- \$500 Shingles for one house
- \$1,000 Windows for one house
- \$10,000 Adopt-A-Lot
- 70,000 Full house sponsorship for one family in need

Loaves and Fishes (www.loavesandfishes.org)

Loaves and Fishes is a network of 18 food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County that provides a week's worth of nutritious groceries at no cost to individuals and families in a short-term crisis. In 2009, Loaves & Fishes provided groceries to 102,638 people.

- \$5 Provides a child with a warm bowl of soup and peanut butter sandwiches for a week
- \$10 Provides a week's supply of perishables (bread, eggs, margarine, and fresh meat) for 10 people
- \$25 Provides macaroni and cheese for 70 people for one week
- \$50 Provides 18 families of three with fresh meat for a week
- \$200 Provides breakfast for 80 families of three for a week.

Men's Shelter of Charlotte (www.mensshelterofcharlotte.org)

(Formerly the Emergency Winter Shelter and the Men's Uptown Shelter) Since 1981, the Men's Shelter of Charlotte has provided warm shelter, meals, and support services to our community's most vulnerable citizens - homeless men. At the Men's Shelter of Charlotte, homeless men have their basic needs met and have the opportunity to work with a case manager who can help them move beyond homelessness. We shelter over 500 men nightly through our two campuses.

- \$20 Provides a homeless man with one night of shelter, three meals, and support services
- \$100 Provides 5 nights of shelter, 15 meals, and support services
- \$600 Provides dinner for all of our guests staying at one of our two campuses

The Relatives (www.therelatives.org)

The Relatives Crisis Shelter has been operating since 1974 providing a safe location for youth ages 7 through 17 who have run away from home, are homeless, or are just going through a rough family situation and have nowhere else to turn. The Relatives provides a safe place to go so the child and his/her family can work through the conflicts. The Relatives also maintains a 24 hour crisis hotline, parenting classes and has two programs to help young adults aging out of foster care.

- \$25 Provides a nutritious breakfast for the nine children staying at The Relatives
- \$50 Provides a warm coat or shoes for a child
- \$100 Fills the van gas tank of the The Relatives uses to transport our children to and from school and medical appointments
- \$500 Enables The Relatives to provide a full series of parenting classes

The Urban Ministry Center (www.urbanministrycenter.org)

The Charlotte Urban Ministry Center is an interfaith organization dedicated to serving our homeless neighbors and helping end homelessness. Basic services include daily lunch and counseling; programs include Room in the Inn, Homeless to Homes and Moore Place Supportive Housing, SABER substance abuse treatment, Community Works 945 (art, gardening, soccer), and Bridges Out of Poverty community education.

- \$10 Provides hot nutritious lunch for 20 homeless people
- \$20 Provides 2 weekly bus passes for newly hired homeless people to get to work
- \$50 Provides enough water for 2 days at TUMC (80 showers, 50 loads of laundry, and dishes for 700 meals)
- \$468 Provides one month of housing and SABER (effective substance abuse treatment) for a chronically homeless man

Thompson Child & Family Focus (www.thompsoncff.org)

Thompson Child & Family Focus provides early childhood programs and community and residential treatment programs to over 10,000 children and parents a year. We lift up abused and neglected children and fragile families through healing, teaching, worship and play.

- \$5 Buys a package of washable markers to allow children to express their emotions through drawing
- \$10 Purchases a personal hygiene item for one child for one month
- \$20 Provides a family style meal for six children
- \$40 Purchases a book bag and fills it for a child in our school based therapy program
- \$300 Purchases a school uniform for one classroom in our day treatment program
- \$1200 Provides bedding for one cottage for one year

YWCA (www.ywcacentralcarolinas.org)

YWCA Central Carolinas is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. YWCA Central Carolinas is a leading area provider of transitional housing for formerly-homeless women and families and youth programs for children in at-risk communities.

- \$25 Provides an hour of YWCA's academically-based summer camp for eight at-risk children
- \$50 Provides a month of electricity for one family in YWCA's Families Together program
- \$100 Provides enough fuel to fill a YWCA summer camp bus
- \$500 Stocks one YWCA Families Together unit with basic household items
- \$700 Houses one woman in the YWCA's Women In Transition program for a month

Agency Mailing Addresses

A Child's Place

(www.AChildsPlace.org)
601 East 5th Street, Suite 230
Charlotte, NC 28202

BRIDGE Jobs Network

(www.BridgeCharlotte.org)
2732 Rozzelles Ferry Road, Suite B
Charlotte, NC 28208
(704) 377-5371

Charlotte Community Health Clinic

(www.CharlotteCommunityHealthClinic.org)
6900 Farmingdale Drive
Charlotte, NC 28212

Charlotte Family Housing

(www.CharlotteFamilyHousing.org)
300 Hawthorne Lane, 3rd Floor
Charlotte, NC 28204

Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte

(www.HabitatCharlotte.org)
PO Box 220287
Charlotte, NC 28222

Loaves and Fishes

(www.LoavesandFishes.org)
P.O. Box 11234
Charlotte, NC 28220

Men's Shelter of Charlotte

(www.MensShelterOfCharlotte.org)
PO Box 36471
Charlotte, NC 28236

The Relatives

(www.TheRelatives.org)
1100 East Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28203

The Urban Ministry Center

(www.UrbanMinistryCenter.org)
945 North College St
Charlotte, NC 28206

Thompson Child and Family Focus

(www.ThompsonCFF.net)
6800 Saint Peter's Lane
Matthews, NC 28105

YWCA

(www.YwcaOfCentralCarolinas.org)
3420 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209