

For Immediate Release
Media Release for the 2008 Alternative Christmas Market

Make plans to visit the Alternative Christmas Market on Saturday, November 15, 2008. The Alternative Gift Market is a unique opportunity that will give shoppers the chance to give gifts for any occasion in honor or memory of friends or relatives. These gifts benefit those in need nationally and around the world. The gifts to choose from are all tax-deductible gifts of hope and new life. Projects are carried out by humanitarian and environmental agencies such as Catholic Relief Services, Mennonite Central Committee, Lutheran World Relief and Sustainable Harvest International. This year's shopping list includes yaks for schools to clothe and feed children in Nepal, meals and medication for lepers in China, tree planting for reforestation in Haiti, and much more.

Besides projects around the world the market will also be supporting nine local agencies in and around Wichita. Please consider attending this year's market and supporting:

GraceMed Roots & Wings (CASA)
Flint Hills Therapeutic Riding Center
Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA)
Dress for Success Kansas Soldier Heartspring
Respite Outreach Care for Kansans Organization (ROCKO)
WSU Women's Studies Scholarship Project
Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center

At the market, shoppers can visit informative displays about the local and worldwide projects. They can then purchase items for the causes that they select and will receive cards with descriptive inserts about their gifts. The cards can be personalized and sent to friends and relatives, informing them that an alternative gift has been given in their honor.

The market is an event that the entire family can enjoy; for kids who want to learn about and share with needy children worldwide, for grandparents who enjoy giving caring gifts, and for people who want to reach out toward a better global society with each gift they give. A delicious soup luncheon will also be available.

The churches and organizations participating in this year's Alternative Gift Market are:

Grace, First and Trinity Presbyterian Churches
Community of Christ and Pine Valley Christian Church
Church of the Savior, Northwest Free Methodist Church
Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, College Hill United Methodist Church
Church of the Resurrection, University Friends, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
St. James and St. Stephen's Episcopal Churches
,Mothers 4 Mothers, Inter-Faith Ministries
Model United Nations WSU

Please visit the website: members.cox.net/altgiftmkt for more information or contact
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