



# Giving Gifts that Count

Skip the malls, close the catalogs, ignore the tv ads clamoring for your money, and this year give Christmas gifts that reflect God's generosity to us.

The diocesan World Mission Department offers four opportunities for giving Alternative Christmas Gifts, and we have added a couple of our favorites. You will find even more giving opportunities at Reflections online at [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org)

**Casa Bethesda Orphanage, in Piedras Negras, Mexico**, is a lifelong orphanage for children and teens -- currently with about 20 residents -- with severe disabilities such as autism, Down's syndrome, epilepsy, and other handicaps.

**The Island of Hope in Minsk, Belarus**, is one of only two privately-run centers for disabled children and young people with learning difficulties in Belarus. A range of lessons featuring practical life skills as well as dance, woodwork, crafts, and ceramics fills each day to help disabled young people realize their full potential.

Severe drought in **Honduras** wiped out crops for many farming communities. With the next planting, floods took away not only the standing produce but also the seeds, leaving thousands destitute. The Diocese of West Texas has bought seeds and food staples for many families in rural communities, but the need continues to be urgent.

**The Trinity Dental Clinic in Liberia** was founded and is run by Dr. Keith Chapman (St. Luke's, San Antonio). With only one other dentist in the country, Keith is continually called upon to do dental surgery and to correct development problems that cause physical and emotional damage to young children.

## More Alternative Christmas Giving Ideas:

Collect toys for children and families at **Good Samaritan Community Services**. For info: [www.goodsamaritancommunityservices.org](http://www.goodsamaritancommunityservices.org) or 210-434-5531.

Send a flock of geese, a rabbit, or a goat through **Heifer International** to a farmer in a poverty-stricken area so that local families can become self-sufficient. Learn more at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

Make a difference for hungry people by purchasing Christmas cards at **Bread for the World**. More at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

Find more ideas to do with your family in your own backyard at [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org)



To participate, select one or more gifts and submit the information below. An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the recipient you name.

Send this form and your donation to:  
World Mission Department  
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas  
P O Box 6885  
San Antonio TX 78209



Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift selection

Casa Bethesda Orphanage       The Island of Hope  
 Honduras drought relief       Trinity Dental Clinic

Gift amount  \$10    \$20    \$30    \$50    Other

Gift honoree name \_\_\_\_\_  
Honoree address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_  
How do you want your card signed? \_\_\_\_\_