



**Buy once, give twice!**

### **Gift gifting with a charitable impact!**

It's time to start your holiday shopping! Let the season of giving begin but not just to friends and family but also to people in need. Whether you give a donation to a nonprofit in a friend's name or pick up an item crafted by artisans working in developing economies, there are plenty of options for the shopper in search of a present that has a social impact. I love the idea of buying once, giving twice. Ladies, I know we spend a ton of money in a matter of weeks during the holiday season and I think we should try to focus some of the money we spend this season towards gifts that give back.

As you start considering holiday gifts for your loved ones, I encourage you to search for products that either give back, raise awareness and/or help others. I hope by reviewing a few of the sites below that it accomplishes one of these two things – 1) that you consider to purchase items that has a social impact or 2) maybe some of these items or businesses may spark an idea for your club. Some of you may have members in your club that have a special talent they can teach/lend your club and you too can create an item to sell with the proceeds going to your club's special project, special holiday baking, holiday wreath making, or think about possibly approaching vendors in your community to possibly give 10% back to your club on the sale of their items on a particular day. If we are going to spend money, let's buy once, give twice!

Although there are many, here are a few that I like...

GFWC Fundraising/Gift Items - <http://www.gfwc.org/membership/fundraising/>

<http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/index.html> - Instead of exchanging gifts, empower a family to turn hunger and poverty into health and prosperity by giving the gift of livestock.

Feed: - <https://www.feedprojects.com/> - Lauren Bush founded FEED in 2007 with the simple idea of creating products that would engage people in the fight against hunger in a tangible way. Every one of our products has a number stamped on it that signifies the amount of meals or micronutrient packets provided with its purchase. Nine years later, we've built a movement connecting our customers to the cause, one bag at a time.

FashionABLE - <https://www.livefashionable.com/pages/our-commitment>. We believe that the end to generational poverty will come when people are able to provide for themselves. We believe that social businesses whose aim is to alleviate poverty should use their business skills to create job opportunities for the poor, not give them more charity. What we seek to "give" to those living in poverty is opportunity by purchasing goods from them, and helping those businesses grow and employ more.

<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/> - Located in Georgia. Support micro-enterprises that lift people from poverty by buying beautiful handmade household goods from Ten Thousand Villages. They also sell jewelry, scarves, and other handicrafts. (\$20 and up)

<http://www.reloom.org/> -Founded in Georgia - re:loom employs and empowers homeless and low-income individuals through weaving beautifully designed products out of recycled materials. Join and support the re:loom movement by purchasing their products.

<https://www.fromwartopeace.com/pages/about-us>

WE TURN WEAPONS MEANT TO DESTROY US INTO ART MEANT TO RESTORE US, SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES, BOMBS INTO BEAUTY, HATE INTO LOVE, & WAR INTO PEACE. They have unique items Beer Not Bombs bottle openers; Make Wine Not War bottle stoppers. This green company also makes jewelry and accessories. \$20. Note this is not a faith based organization but it does have some faith inspired items. <https://www.fromwartopeace.com/collections/accessories-make-wine-not-war>

<http://www.pulseraproject.org/> - my daughter's Spanish class purchased a box of bracelets to sell – our family purchased a ton for her friends outside of school – we gave them as small gifts, or placed them on wrapped gifts as a gift tag/wearable bracelet. Each bracelet had a tag with a photo of the child or person that handcrafted the item. The bracelets were \$5 each. A great way to educate and raise awareness of those less fortunate to our children.

<https://www.thegivingkeys.com/> **The Giving Keys** exists to employ those transitioning out of homelessness in Los Angeles to make key necklaces and other jewelry out of repurposed keys.

<http://www.toms.com/#why-give-sight>. **Sunglasses from TOMS**

Buy a pair of sunglasses and TOMS will send money to provide life saving eye care to one individual around the world.

<http://www.toms.com/#why-give-shoes> **TOMS** is also known for its One for One shoe products. (\$50 and up)

<http://31bits.com/> - Their Mission: Using fashion and design to empower people to rise above poverty.

Their Model is to create dignified work opportunities for artisans worldwide while providing customers with a place to purchase hand made products. We provide our artisans with access to counseling, health care, and education. We provide ways to improve their local communities and support their families. Everything we do is funded through product sales. That means every time our customers make a purchase, they are having a direct impact on the lives of our artisans and their families.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions – I'm here for you!

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