

Give the World a Present

For shoppers faced with the problem of trying to find that perfect gift for someone who has everything, the Alternative Gift Market offers a solution. The Alternative Gift Market will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse at 840 Sandwich Road in East Falmouth. The market will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The Alternative Gift Market is a unique opportunity to purchase non-traditional gifts in honor of friends or relatives. These gifts can solve the problem of what to give someone who has everything and at the same time, assist and empower those in need locally and around the world. Livestock and education, medicines and eye care, bicycles and fuel-efficient stoves, micro loans and shelter for the homeless – these are the kinds of authentic gifts available at this market. Here, instead of buying yet another sweater for Aunt Sue, a shopper might provide cataract surgery for a blind child in Nepal or purchase trees for reforestation of Haiti. Aunt Sue will get an attractive card telling her about the gift given in her honor and will know that she has helped make a difference in the world.

“The Alternative Gift Market will offer a wide selection of meaningful, life-giving gifts that can change the world,” explains Market Co-chairperson Chris Michelson. “Each project is sponsored by one of 24 different non-profit organizations or ecumenical agencies - Heifer International, the Nature Conservancy, Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Services, and the Falmouth Service Center are just a few of the sponsors.”

Shoppers will be able to browse through display booths featuring these and other unique gifts as well as a variety of fine handcrafted products, such as baskets, ceramics, jewelry, and more, from artisans in developing regions of the world. Volunteers will be on hand to help shoppers make their selections. There is no charge for admission.

The market is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth in partnership with Alternative Gifts International, Heifer Project International, SERRV International, and eight local, charitable organizations.

