



• TOGETHER WE SPREAD THE JOY OF GOD'S GRACE HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD •

2008 GIFTS OF HOPE

GIFTS OF HOPE is operated by volunteers from throughout the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, ELCA

WELCOME TO THE 2008 GIFTS OF HOPE CATALOG!

GIFTS OF HOPE, the alternative gift-giving program in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod (ELCA), is starting its 17th year in Advent 2008. Since 1992, over \$2 million has been raised to help people in need in our community and around the world! And every penny received has gone directly to the beneficiaries.

This 17th GIFTS OF HOPE CATALOG retains the familiar format of 39 unique gifts priced from \$3 to \$250 and the option for each congregation to designate its own gift (*see #40*) in the catalog.

GIFTS OF HOPE includes social ministry organizations (SMOs) affiliated with the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, the Synod's three companion synods, and two camps.

After the Advent sales conclude, you can continue to purchase these Gifts until September 2009 by using our website:

WWW.GIFTSOFHOPEMETRODC.ORG

Whether you give Gifts of Hope to share your faith and blessings, to advocate for a simpler lifestyle, to enjoy matching your purchases to the interest of those you present with the gifts, for convenience, or for all these reasons, we thank you for your commitment to Gifts of Hope.

Special thanks to the Synod staff and treasurer for administrative support, to the Mid-Atlantic Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a matching grant, and to local chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for printing support. Thanks also to Elizabeth Clark, www.bluoak.com, who leads a visual communications service company and contributed the card design.

HOW TO PURCHASE GIFTS OF HOPE

Through your congregation during Advent 2008

The fastest and simplest way to purchase GIFTS OF HOPE during Advent is at the GIFTS OF HOPE sales event in your local congregation:

1. Review the GIFTS OF HOPE Catalog.
2. Fill in the Order Form, available as a separate sheet.
3. Write a check to your congregation, or pay in cash.
4. For each purchase, receive three items: a gift card, an envelope and an insert describing your chosen gift. The actual gift will be delivered by the designated ministry or organization to the beneficiary.

If you live beyond the Metro D.C. area, you can purchase Gifts of Hope through our website, **WWW.GIFTSOFHOPEMETRODC.ORG**.

WORDS OF THANKS

“Fellowship Square Foundation—and its over 700 low-income elderly or handicapped residents—appreciate the significant support provided through generous Gifts of Hope. Because of such gifts, financially strapped residents can get prescriptions filled or make co-payments required with their doctor visits. Or those who now have difficulty performing some household tasks alone can get housekeeping assistance. These gifts are part of the “Good Samaritan” assistance cheerfully but quietly provided to our residents as needed. The Gifts of Hope benefit the ultimate recipients, the organization (like FSF) that channels the aid; and the ‘gifters’ who take pleasure in sharing.”

From N Street Village: “Your [N Street Village] work is very important and long-sighted.” — *The Dalai Lama, October 19th, 2007 at N Street Village*

From an N Street Village's receipt: “These generous contributions to our various programs will greatly benefit the hundreds of women who come through our doors every year in search of hope and hospitality. Thank you so much for being a part of this important mission to serve our homeless and low-income sisters in the Washington Community.”

“On behalf of Community Family Life Services and our clients, we thank you for your Gifts of Hope this year. We are so grateful to receive these contributions. The most basic needs, such as clothing and food, continue to grow and we continue to see new faces every week. Your donations fulfill a critical need. Thank You.”

GIFTS OF HOPE DESCRIPTIONS

GIFTS THAT PROVIDE FOR DAILY NEEDS

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|-----------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | Medical Supplies | NSV | \$25 |
| 1 | Provide basic medical supplies, from reading glasses to over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, to NSV residents. Non-Alcoholic cold and flu medications are needed year-round for homeless women, who often have poor nutrition and low immunity. | | |
| | Dental Care | NLH | \$20 |
| 2 | Fund dental care for residents of limited means who require more than the normal coverage offered by NLH. | | |
| | Bus or METRO Farecards | NSV | \$10 |
| 3 | Provide transportation for a homeless woman served by Bethany Women's Center at N Street Village to get to a medical appointment or job interview. | | |
| | Winter Coat | CFLS | \$50 |
| 4 | Buy a homeless man or woman a warm winter coat for protection from cold days on the street. | | |
| | In-Home Assistance | FSF | \$15 |
| 5 | Provide in-home care, such as housekeeping or help from an aide, for a senior needing assistance. | | |
| | Food for a Needy Family or Senior | CFLS | \$25 |
| 6 | Offer a hot breakfast for 10 homeless men, women, or children on a Saturday morning this winter. | | |
| | Disaster Aid | ELCIN | \$100 |
| 7 | Contribute to help those suffering from Namibia's severe flooding and other natural disasters. | | |
| | Nutritious Meals for a Week | FSF | \$20 |
| 8 | Supply seven healthy meals for a low-income resident at Fellowship Square Fellowship House. | | |
| | Bread and Milk for Children In El Salvador | LCES | \$10 |
| 9 | Provide food (Pan y Leche) and shelter to abandoned children as well as lunches for homeless persons of all ages. | | |
| | Transportation toward a New Life | LSS | \$20 |
| 10 | Getting around in our area without a car or bike is a challenge. Provide bus tokens or Metro rides to job interviews, classes, or the grocery store. | | |
| | Medical Care for Low-Income Families | LVC | \$35 |
| 11 | Help support a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member working in a clinic that provides free medical care to uninsured families in Washington, D.C. | | |
| | Physician Co-pay | FSF | \$15 |
| 12 | Cover the co-pay costs for low-income seniors when they must visit a doctor. | | |
| | Domestic Abuse Prevention | LVC | \$35 |
| 13 | Support LVC volunteers as they work with adult and teen survivors of relationship abuse. Prevention, education, and training are vital to eliminate violence against women. | | |
| | Appointment Book and Notepads | NSV | \$15 |
| 14 | N Street Village helps homeless women put their lives back together. Provide an appointment book and filler pads to keep track of medical and therapy appointments, job interviews, etc. | | |
| | Mattress or Bed Frame | NSV | \$100 |
| 15 | Give a new mattress or bed frame to aid N Street Village in providing overnight accommodations to homeless women. | | |
| | Nutritious Snack after Medication | LSS | \$10 |
| 16 | Provide nutritious snacks for Camp Safe Haven campers, after they have taken their medications. Camp Safe Haven provides overnight camp for low-income children with HIV/AIDS. | | |
| | Child/Teen Wellness Program | THC | \$50 |
| 17 | Support a Partner Arms child or teen resident for a month's participation in THC's new Wellness Program of fitness, health, nutrition, and family life skills and activities. | | |
| | Activities for orphaned and abused children | ELCRN | \$50 |
| 18 | The Windows of Hope Kids Club provides after-school and weekend support for orphans and victims of domestic violence in Namibia. Club activities offer learning, psycho-social support, esteem-building, creativity, and hope for the future. | | |
| | Thermal Underwear and Socks | CFLS | \$40 |
| 19 | Provide a set of thermal underwear and a pair of warm socks to warm a homeless person in the D.C. area during the winter months. | | |
| | Fill a Prescription | FSF | \$35 |
| 20 | Help a needy senior pay for a prescription to meet his or her medical needs. | | |

GIFTS THAT BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

21 **Basket of Books** SE Min has a basket of free books for kids in the reception area and shelves of new and used books for adults. Keep the basket filled.

SE Min	\$5
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Mentoring and Educating At-Risk Youth

22 Support an LVC volunteer. Lutheran Volunteers become powerful role models to low-income youth at risk for gang involvement, drug use, teen pregnancy, and other problems.

LVC	\$35
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Supplies for GED student

23 Equip a GED student. Students need a calculator, dictionary, 3-ring binder, and subject workbooks to do assignments and be prepared for the GED test.

SE Min	\$20
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Help a Student

24 Provide school supplies and basic computer equipment for a school child in El Salvador.

LCES	\$45
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Pay a Pastor

25 Pay a pastor's salary for one week or a deacon's for two. The money goes to an ELCA endowment fund which ensures stability and regularity of payment to clergy in El Salvador.

LCES	\$100
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Adoptee Search & Reunion

26 Help an adopted person search for birth relatives. Fund fees for hospital records, birth records, court adoption files, filing a court petition, and placing newspaper announcements.

LSS	\$100
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Computers for Namibian Seminary Students

27 Provide new computer equipment to help seminary students prepare for their roles as church leaders. Thirty-seven seminary students now share ten computers including eight almost unreadable monitors.

ELCIN/ ELCRN	\$75
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Chaplains' Conference

28 Allow a chaplain to attend a 2-day conference. Chaplains from all over Slovakia meet to share experiences and learn from each other.

LCS	\$77
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Furnishing the Upper Room

29 Help furnish the Caroline Furnace adult conference center, called the Upper Room, with conference tables.

CFLC	\$100
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Electricity for Churches

30 Assist churches in rural Slovakia to acquire electricity and electric fixtures. Many churches in rural Slovakia are not electrified.

LCS	\$100
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Traveling Money

31 Provide public transportation for a GED or job-readiness student to get to class.

SE Min	\$16
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Student Stipend

32 Provide a weekly stipend for GED and job-readiness students. A weekly stipend encourages good attendance, and it helps graduates celebrate their achievement.

SE Min	\$25
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GIFTS THAT BRING JOY

Ice Cream Treats for Needy Children

33 Provide ice cream treats for needy children in the D.C. area.

CFLS	\$3
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Trip to the Beauty Shop

34 Treat a resident at the NLH to a gift in the beauty shop. A hair care appointment gives quite a boost to the spirit.

NLH	\$10
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Reading Club Books

35 Provide a month's supply of children's books for the Partner Arms Reading Club—4 paperback books for a beginning or advanced reader.

THC	\$20
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Adventure for a Child

36 Help a child who was a victim of domestic violence and lives in Lutheran Social Services' transitional housing program to participate in monthly activities such as zoo and museum trips, visits from reptile lady, puppet maker, clown or magician.

LSS	\$25
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Summer Enrichment for a Child

37 Help make summer a rewarding time for a formerly homeless child. GSH evaluates a child's needs and interests and provides sports equipment or at least 3 music or art lessons or tutoring.

GSH	\$35
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Special Activities and Treats For the Elderly

38 Trips and special events at the National Lutheran Home are a great source of joy for the residents. NLH does not charge for these activities, enabling residents at all income levels to participate.

NLH	\$15
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A Week of Summer Camp for one Child

39 Help provide a week of summer camp for a needy child who will experience God's love through caring staff members and gain self-confidence and self-esteem.

MLR	\$250
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*The commandment that we have from him is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:21)*

GIFTS OF HOPE BENEFICIARIES

International Church Organizations (Companion Synods)

Lutheran Church in El Salvador

The LCES provides spiritual guidance, hope and reconciliation to El Salvadoran people who lack fulfillment of basic needs. Unemployment, lack of basic health care, and violence are daily occurrences for some, with women, senior citizens, and children among those most vulnerable. The church works with allied ministries to provide for basic needs, education, and health care for many in urban and rural areas.

www.elca.org/countrypackets

LCES

ELCN/ELCRN

Lutheran Churches in Namibia

Two Lutheran bodies—ELCIN (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia) and ELCRN (Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia) cooperatively support a Lutheran Seminary in Namibia and each also sustains other educational and economic projects to improve life and livelihood and to meet spiritual needs of the Namibian people.

www.elca.org/countrypackets

LCS

Lutheran Churches in Slovakia

Since 1989 LCS, with the assistance of missionaries and financial support from partner churches, has reclaimed most of its pre-World War II properties, reopened numerous Lutheran secondary and elementary schools, established a Lutheran Theological Seminary complex in Bratislava, and begun outreach to the Roma (Gypsy) community.

www.elca.org/countrypackets

Metro DC Synod Social Ministry Organizations (SMO)s

Community Family Life Services

CFLS facilitates personal growth, independence, and integration into a healthy community through a Continuum of Care model for its low-income and homeless clients, regardless of their faith. Its programs in housing, supportive services, emergency services, after school and summer camp, and employment development target the root causes of poverty and homelessness and aim to resolve short-term crises needs, as well as to enable people to achieve permanent economic and social self-sufficiency.

www.cflsdc.org

CFLS

LSS

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

Proclaiming God's grace, LSS/NCA compassionately works to create a society where the most vulnerable among us find wholeness, justice, and self-sufficiency. LSS provides professional social services; assists congregations in identifying and responding to human needs; and advocates for social justice, individual self-sufficiency, and the inherent worth of each human being. LSS is well known for its adoptions program, refugee resettlement and employment services, foster care, innovative programs for youth affected by HIV/AIDS, and emergency preparedness/disaster response.

www.lssnca.org

SE MIN

Southeast Ministry

Southeast Ministry (SEM), a joint ministry of Church of the Reformation (DC) and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, provides a ministry of hope for over 500 men, women and children a year. In the southeast part of D.C., SEM operates a GED preparation program, the Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network (AMEN) Job Readiness training, an Ex-Offender support group, and an after school literacy and literature program for disadvantaged children.

www.southeastministry.org

FSF

Fellowship Square Foundation

FSF provides housing and related services to low-income individuals, especially the elderly and handicapped, in the Washington Metro area. More than just a landlord providing shelter and collecting rent, FSF provides a caring staff, a comfortable, secure living environment worthy of being called "home", and special services such as beauty and barber shops, libraries, social halls, recreational facilities, and places for religious expression. Such environments and services enhance the personal freedom, independence, confidence, and well-being of its residents.

www.fellowshipsquare.org

LVC

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

The LVC is a year-long service program for people 21 and over seeking to unite faith, social justice, community living, and simplicity. Volunteers, matched with non-profit organizations in 10 metro areas across the U.S., work full-time in various positions ranging from direct social services, to political advocacy, community organizing, education, and activism. LVC volunteers strive to grow spiritually by working for social justice while living together in intentional communities, simplifying their lifestyles, and managing on a minimum stipend.

www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

THC

Transitional Housing Corporation

Founded in 1990, THC is a faith-based non-profit organization. With three apartment buildings totaling 40 apartments, THC provides transitional housing and support services for families moving from the streets or shelters to permanent housing and stable independent lives.

www.thcdc.org

GSH

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation

GSH, serving the Prince William County (VA) community since 1989, provides permanent supportive housing and support service solutions for persons with chronic low income due to mental or physical disabilities, teenage or single parenthood, HIV/AIDS or age. GSH's Shepherd homes offers affordable supportive housing for chronically mentally ill adults. Grayson Gardens Horticultural Therapy combines the therapeutic nature of gardening with the needs of the developmentally disabled and the chronically mentally ill. And the Housing Partnership Program provides affordable, permanent supportive housing for single head-of-household families who have graduated from area transitional housing programs.

www.goodshepherdhousing.org

NLH

National Lutheran Home

A Lutheran-sponsored continuing care retirement community, with an independent living village and a large nursing home in Rockville, Maryland. The NLH has served Metropolitan Washington and surrounding areas for over 100 years, and is well-respected for its fine facilities and especially for its extraordinary caring service. The NLH currently is planning a second campus in the Winchester, Virginia area.

www.nlha.org

MLR/CFLC

Lutheran Camps

Mar-Lu-Ridge (MLR), an outdoor ministry of the ELCA situated in Central Maryland's Catocin Mountains, ministers through its summer camp, retreat and conference center, and other programs throughout the year—providing experiences to change lives, make disciples, build friendships, and create Christian communities.

www.mar-lu-ridge.org

NSV

N Street Village

Founded by Luther Place Memorial Church (DC) in 1978, N Street Village empowers homeless and low-income women to claim their highest quality of life by offering a broad spectrum of services and advocacy in an atmosphere of dignity and respect, including transitional, permanent and addiction recovery housing; night shelter; wellness center; day program; and employment services. NSV also provides affordable housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

www.nstreetvillage.org

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp (CFLC), a year-round ministry of the Metro DC, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synods of the ELCA, provides an intentional Christian Community experience where one meets God in God's awesome creation—over 300 acres of central Virginia's hills, streams, ponds, and forest. With its summer camp, retreat facilities, trained staff and beautiful environment, Caroline Furnace offers a place to learn and grow with others in the faith.

www.carolinefurnace.org