

Get Creative with *Gifts for Life*

Here are some fun ideas for fellowship, and other ways your community can support our [Gifts for Life](#) program:

- Organize a read-a-thon, dance-a-thon or walk-a-thon. Collect pledges from family friends for each mile or hour of your activity.
- Organize a weekend car wash and use the proceeds to purchase *Gifts for Life*.
- Arrange a silent auction for your church and community members. Ask members of your congregation to donate items that can be put up for bidding.
- Have your adult or children's Sunday school class host and make an inexpensive dinner with an admission charge. Decide together what *Gifts for Life* selections to purchase with the proceeds.
- Encourage your children to write letters to family members, friends, classmates and club or team members to raise money to purchase a special gift. Have them mention that the gift will make a difference for children in need.
- Sponsor a church or neighborhood garage sale. Gather gently used books, crafts, clothes and household goods to sell, and use the money you raise to purchase items from the *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- Hold a wine-tasting event and use the proceeds to purchase clean water or other basic needs for a family or community. Please [click here](#) to learn how St. Paul's Episcopal, Franklin, TN, hosted a "Wedding at Cana" event.
- Instead of going out to dinner with friends, hold a potluck and put the money saved into a basket. Then go through the *Gifts for Life* catalog as a group and choose items based on the amount collected.
- Hold a Game Night and ask people to make a donation in order to participate. The group can then decide together what gifts to purchase with the collected funds.
- "Get the Warden's Goat": Raise enough money to buy a goat in honor of your church's warden. In the same way, you can "get the priest's goat," the treasurer's, the auditor's or whoever you choose.
- Instead of holding a regular family, office or group gift exchange, pool the funds that would have been spent and choose *Gifts for Life* as a group, or give gifts to everyone based on their various interests. For example:

- * For your child's teacher: [Nurture & Nourish the Earliest Learners](#) or [Educate Children Orphaned by AIDS](#)
- * For new parents or grandparents: [Care for Moms & Newborns](#)
- * For an avid gardener: [Seeds, Tools & Training, Fruit Trees](#) or a [Community Garden](#)
- * For a farmer: a [Cow](#), [Pig](#) or [Flock of Chickens](#)

- * For someone in health care: [Vitamins and Medicine](#), [Health Clinics](#) or [Training of Community Health Workers](#)
- * In honor of a baptism: [Clean Water](#)
- * For campers: [Mosquito Nets!](#)
- * For a banker, accountant or church treasurer: [Micro-credit Loans for Women](#)

Portions contributed by Barb Hagen, former Ministry Partner of the Diocese of Montana. Find out how you can become a Ministry Partner by emailing us at engagement@episcopalrelief.org.



Daniela, a dairy farmer in Yuscarán, Honduras, is part of a saving group in her community. Daniela shares that she can get two liters of milk from her cows, which is essential to feeding her baby and caring for her family. "This savings group has been very supportive of me. When I needed it the most, they approved a loan to buy food for my animals, and with that, I feel more confident that they are well-fed and will continue to give me the milk we need."