

Connecting people who **want** to help,
with people who **can** help the people who need help.



Alternative Gifts International

April - June 2009 Newsletter • www.alternativegifts.org • 800.842.2243



SERVICE SUMMIT: AFRICA



The 2009 Service Summit was hosted by the International School of Uganda. More than 150 teens met to share stories and examples of their efforts to improve the world through community service. AGI student board member Sahdia Khan presented AGI's market concept of team planning, education and global outreach (*bottom left*).

(*top left*) The Service Summit attendees enjoyed several work projects, like planting trees near a rural riverbed vulnerable to erosion.

(*left*) In Kampala's inner-city, where local artists and non-profits sell crafts, Service Summit attendees were able to shop and learn about the culture of Africa.

(*below & top right*) Many poor African youth spend their days gathering water or working in fields for their families and cannot attend school.



What Earth Are Millennium Goals?

The symbols on each monthly calendar represent the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDG), which AGI is highlighting in the annual catalog. For more information, see www.un.org/millenniumgoals.



April

Thinking green may be the media's answer to this goal. To ensure environmental sustainability does begin with awareness about how we can reverse the trends of waste and degradation to the Earth. However, in recognition of Earth Day on April 22, we hope you will do more than 'think green.' Take a moment to better understand why AGI selects projects that represent sustainable solutions, rather than quick-fixes and 'do-good' projects. Please consider supporting one or more of the following projects: 6, 20, 25 or 36.



May

Mother's Day is the main reason we reserved this goal for May. Tragically, too many women and babies still die in the process of birth, even though it is indeed the oldest 'production' in history. There are many ways to improve maternal health that are not all "high-tech." You can learn about and support a few of these solutions by donating to projects 1, 12, 17 or 28.



June

With the economic decline and weak interest rates, this year will be more difficult than ever to recover from the deficit that AGI ended FY 2007-08. Our board members pledged not to increase the 10% amount retained from donors' gifts, so we must find alternative ways to increase undesignated gifts to AGI. One way to help is through project 39b—Funding AGI's Mission.

Please call 800-842-2243, send a check (P.O. Box 3810, Wichita, KS 67201) or use the web site (alternativegifts.org) to designate your gift to AGI.

Agency Accomplishments

The Nature Conservancy

Problem:

Mass deforestation, and resultant catastrophic erosion, siltation of rivers, and sedimentation of rich coastal waters which threatens the biodiversity and overall economy of Haiti.

The severe environmental degradation in the watershed's upper basin in the Dominican Republic has led to high levels of sedimentation of the entire watercourse. This results in a significant reduction in Haiti's capacity to produce electricity and use the water for human consumption and agriculture.

Solution:

A multi-national project to remedy the major problem of insufficient water supply for Haiti.

With funding from AGI donors in 2007-08 (Rescue a River), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is now working in eight communities along the Dominican-Haitian border to restore the Artibonite River watershed area. This successful project is coordinating reforestation activities and training of community leaders. Some accomplishments include:

- Thirty families received economic incentives as remuneration for the labor in nursery and planting activities.
- Thirty Haitian community members, and two technical staff representing local families, were trained to provide program participants with the skills needed to manage tree seedlings in the nursery, plant seedlings and maintain the plantation.
- As of February 2009, 45,000 fast growing eucalyptus trees have been planted. Survival rate of the plantation is estimated at 95-percent.
- Community members approved the allocation of 400 hectares of communal lands into the restoration program. This important decision could increase the number of participating families from 30 to approximately 100 families.

TNC has also been fortunate to secure the commitment of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment's national reforestation program, *Quisqueya Verde*. With this neighboring governmental participation, the Haitians are more likely to receive the support needed for future environmental restorations.

AGI and TNC foresee this as a forerunner to additional NGO/governmental collaborations. AGI is pleased to be part of this solution.



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET FEATURE:

YOUR SUPPORT + HARD WORK

TOP MARKET TOTALS!

Congratulations to:

SOLANA BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
for raising \$34,157 at their AGM!

\$ 9,999 - 5,000

CHURCH/ ORGANIZATION	CITY	ST
First Lutheran	Cedar Rapids	IA
River Road Unitar. Universalist	Bethesda	MD
First United Methodist of Franklin	Franklin	TN
Cache Valley Uniter. Universtiy	Logan	UT
St. Andrew United Methodist	Highlands Ranch	CO
Davidson United Methodist	Davidson	NC
Presbyterian Church of the Master	Mission Viejo	CA
First Unitarian	Pittsburgh	PA
Davidson College Chaplain's Office	Davidson	NC
Wooster Churches United for AGM	Wooster	OH
Neighborhood Church of Pasadena	Pasadena	CA
Unitarian Universalist	Reston	VA
Indian Run United Methodist	Dublin	OH
First Congregational	Boulder	CO
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	E. Falmouth	MA
Christ Community	Spring Lake	MI
First United Methodist	Austin	TX
Westminster Presbyterian College	New Wilmington	PA
St. Pauls Memorial	Charlottesville	VA
Westminster Presbyterian	Salem	OR
New Wilmington Presbyterian	New Wilmington	PA
Valley Presbyterian	Portola Valley	CA

Note: These totals are for organizations that raised \$3,500+ through the 2008-09 season. We apologize in advance and would like to feature all 230+ markets, but cannot due to space limitations. To see a complete list with proceeds, visit our web site, alternativegifts.org. Questions? Give us a call: 800-842-2243.

\$ 34,000 - 10,000

CHURCH/ ORGANIZATION	CITY	ST
Solana Beach Presbyterian	Solana Beach	CA
Grace Presbyterian	Wichita	KS
Southminster & Fairmount Presbyterian	Centerville	OH
Grand Valley Peace & Justice Center	Grand Junction	CO
Sunnyvale Presbyterian	Sunnyvale	CA
Our Father Lutheran	Centennial	CO
Grace Episcopal	Hastings-on-Hudson	NY
Ames Area AGM	Ames	IA
Church of Christ (Dartmouth College)	Hanover	NH
First Congregational UCC	Pocatello	ID
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian	Bryn Mawr	PA
Neelsville Presbyterian	Germantown	MD
Arvada United Methodist	Arvada	CO
University Presbyterian	Chapel Hill	NC
University Presbyterian	San Antonio	TX
Christ Lutheran	Charlotte	NC
John Calvin Presbyterian	Annandale	VA

\$ 4,999 - 3,500

CHURCH/ ORGANIZATION	CITY	ST
Wasatch Presbyterian	Salt Lake City	UT
Comm. Church of Vero Beach	Vero Beach	FL
St. Monica's Catholic	Moraga	CA
Gunnison Congregational*	Gunnison	CO
Central Congregational UCC	Atlanta	GA
Lawrence University - SWAHP	Appleton	WI
First Congregational UCC	Albuquerque	NM
United Methodist Church of Chugiak	Chugiak	AK
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian	Lafayette	CA
First Congregational UCC	Appleton	WI
Calvary Episcopal Cathedral*	Sioux Falls	SD
Mennonite Church of Normal	Normal	IL
Bethlehem Lutheran	Minneapolis	MN
Colesville Presbyterian	Silver Springs	MD
Christ Memorial Lutheran	Plymouth	MN
Westminster Presbyterian	Des Moines	IA
Grace United Methodist	Wilmington	NC
First Presbyterian	Granville	OH
First Lutheran*	San Marcos	TX
First Congregational UCC	Wolfeboro	NH
Central Presbyterian	Denver	CO
First Congregational	Salt Lake City	UT
All Saints Episcopal	Appleton	WI
Greenfield Hill Congregational	Fairfield	CT
First Presbyterian	Newark	DE
Wellesley Friends Meeting	Wellesley	MA
St. Paul's Episcopal	Marquette	MI
New Hope Presbyterian	Derwood	MD

*Denotes New Market

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IT'S ON!
The 12th annual
**\$1 Million
Giveaway**
to Fight Hunger!

The greatest grassroots effort ever to fight hunger! The Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island is adding money to any donations made to AGI's Project 32, *Healthy Food for Hungry Americans*.

DEADLINE: APRIL 30

My Shopping List for the World

- ★ NEW LOGO!
- ★ NEW LOOK!
- ★ SAME GIFT GIVING STYLE!

SUMMER 2009

LOOKING FOR A GREAT LOW-COST AND CREATIVE
NEW APPROACH TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?

**SUMMER, VBS OR CHILDREN'S
MISSION STUDY CURRICULUM
NOW AVAILABLE!**

Visit www.alternativegifts.org to download it!



NOTE TO OUR READERS:

If you are receiving more than one newsletter or would like to receive the electronic version only, please let us know.

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