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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transform Gift Giving at the 22nd Annual Wichita Alternative Gift Market

“Act locally; impact globally!” The Wichita Alternative Gift Market brings three dozen local, national, and international charitable organizations under one roof for one day on the second Saturday of each November. The market will return to East Heights UMC (4407 East Douglas, Wichita KS, 67218) November 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the second consecutive year.

Just like traditional gifts, alternative gifts express love and affection, celebrate occasions and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, an Alternative Gift purchased at the market does not contribute to the consumer stream and will not be re-gifted. You can purchase these tax-deductible gifts to honor your family and friends, then present to them a beautiful greeting card with a gift insert describing the project you supported.

Shoppers who select alternative gifts will receive, if they so choose, hand-made ornaments representing the projects they are sponsoring—another unique aspect of the Wichita market.



The Wichita Alternative Gift Market is not just an event; it is a community of people who care. It is not just a shopping day; it is an opportunity to make our world a better place. It is not religious, nor political, nor commercial; it is an alternative to the holiday frenzy and a unique way to experience the golden rule.

The market offers a wonderful opportunity to learn about projects around the world that relieve poverty and suffering. Thirty projects ranging from wells in South Sudan to medicine for Burmese refugees are available through our partner, Alternative Gifts International (AGI).

The 2016 market will raise funds for the following local organizations:

- Circles Network
- Dear Neighbor Ministries
- Episcopal Migration Ministries
- Heartspring
- Roth Project (Alzheimer’s Association)
- West High School OWLS (Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site)
- YWCA Women’s Crisis Center

The 2016-2017 AGI catalog projects to be featured at the upcoming market are:

1. Create a Small Family Farm - Haiti
2. Start a Food Supply - Belize, Honduras, Panama
3. Nourish the Hungry & Homeless - USA/Canada
4. Green Grows the Garden - Haiti
5. Milk/Cookies to End Malnutrition - Guatemala & Haiti
6. Books for School Libraries - Ethiopia
7. A Better Life for Orphans - Mexico
8. Tutor A Child - The Philippines
9. Give India’s Forgotten Children a Future - India
10. Scholarships Bring Hope - Haiti
11. A Future with Dignity for Dalit Women - India
12. Help Her Build an Enterprise - Egypt
13. Rescue Victims of Sex Trafficking - Asia & Caribb.
14. Help a Girl Graduate - Kenya

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| 15. Traveling Medics Save Lives - Burma | 23. Get Children Moving with Leg Braces - DR Congo |
| 16. Bikes Bring Learning & Medicine - Africa | 24. Fresh Water Wells - S. Sudan |
| 17. Safe Birthing Kits™ - DR Congo, Haiti, S. Sudan | 25. Protect the Orangutan's Home - Indonesia/Asia Pac. |
| 18. Wheelchairs for Independence & Dignity - Global | 26. Restore the Land. Feed A Family - Tanzania |
| 19. Care & Compassion for AIDS Victims - Swaziland | 27. Plant a Tree for Me - Haiti |
| 20. Blankets, Coats & Socks for Children - Tibet, China | 28. Refugee Women & Children in Crisis - Syria's Border |
| 21. Where Needed Most - Global | 29. Trained Teachers = Better Students - Global |
| 22. Support Our Work - Global | 30. Giving Hope through Microloans - Global |

At the market, shoppers can also purchase fair-trade crafts and more. Light breakfast and lunch items will be available. Those seeking more traditional gifts will find global artisan crafts presented by Fair Trade Fans of Newton & Wichita (Ten Thousand Villages) as well as Trades of Hope, 2017 wall calendars supporting the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Kansas, cookbooks featuring recipes from local restaurants and cooks (with proceeds supporting the mission of East Heights UMC), and fair-trade chocolates, coffees and teas from Equal Exchange.

In 2015, the 21st market raised \$30,360—one of the highest ranking Wichita markets in terms of total donations. Of that amount, \$3,835 was disbursed to six local agencies: Circles Network, Dear Neighbors Ministries, EmberHope (Youthville), Fairmount GoZones, Filling the Gap (Partners for Wichita), and the YWCA Women's Crisis Center. The remainder was disbursed to 30 national and international projects in the AGI annual catalog.

Multiple Wichita food assistance programs have also received funding from AGI. Over the years, more than \$50,000 has been granted to recipients such as Anthony Family Shelter, Catholic Charities, Inter-Faith Ministries, Kansas Food Bank, The Lord's Diner, Wichita Children's Home, and the YWCA Women's Crisis Center. These grants are distributed to programs throughout the USA and Canada each year based on nominations by market volunteers.

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of AGI. The concept began in the early 1980's then, because of the fast growth of this project, Alternative Gift Markets, Inc. was organized as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, tax exempt corporation in July, 1986. Since then it has grown throughout the United States. Wichita hosts one of the largest markets in the nation.

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<http://www.altgifts.org>
<http://alternativegiftmarketwichita.wordpress.com>

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