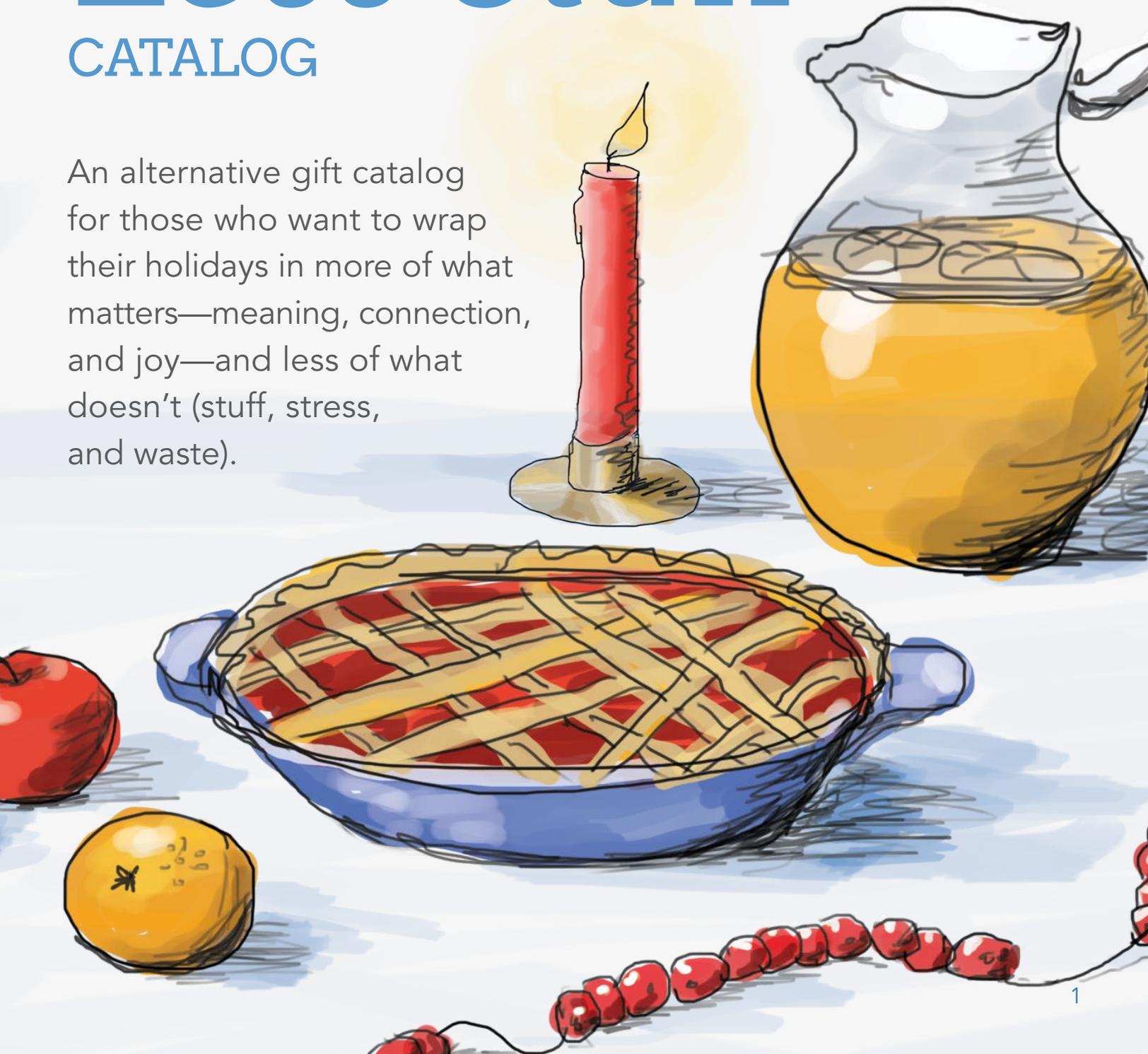


# THE More Fun Less Stuff CATALOG

An alternative gift catalog for those who want to wrap their holidays in more of what matters—meaning, connection, and joy—and less of what doesn't (stuff, stress, and waste).



# More Fun, Less Stuff

---

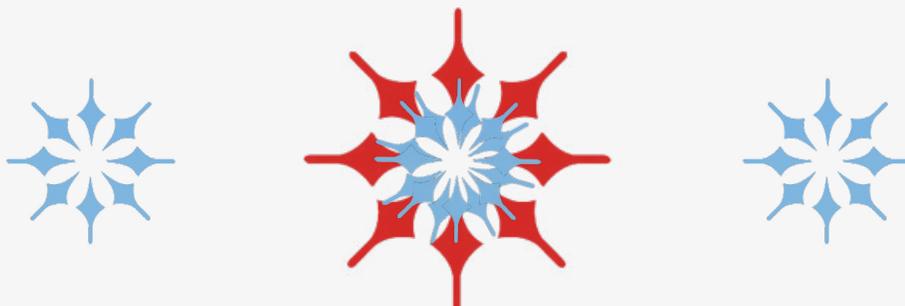
The holidays are meant to be a time of peace, reflection, and celebration. Yet too often, we feel trapped by all the shopping, spending, and frenzied preparations that accompany the season.

But it doesn't have to be this way. It's time to think outside the (big) box. It's time to celebrate and give in a manner that encourages more sharing, more laughter, and more creativity—and less stress, less waste, and less debt.

“Probably the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words.”

—Harlan Miller

This alternative gift catalog is filled with hundreds of **meaningful gift ideas** that can be customized for your friends and family. Because, after all, the best gifts usually don't fit in a box.



# Gift Categories: Table of Content



<a href="#">For the Kids</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">From the Kids</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">For Your Partner</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">For Parents/Grandparents</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">For Young Adults</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">For New Parents</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">For the Whole Family</a>	<a href="#">13</a>

If you're looking for a way to gently let your family and friends know to "shop" for you from this catalog, there's an easy solution: start a [SoKind registry](#). For inspiration, see our [sample holiday wishlist](#).



If you feel uncomfortable sending out a holiday wish list, try proposing it like: *"This year, I really want to make sure that I'm giving gifts you actually want. I don't just want to add clutter to your lives! I heard about this online service called*

*SoKind that lets families make holiday wish lists. You can even register for more creative gifts that you can't get in a store. Here's [a sample holiday wish list](#)—wouldn't it be fun if our families created something like it this year?"*



# For the Kids

---

- Classes, Lessons** | Gift them a class or share your own talents: art, cooking, music, mountain biking, woodworking, knitting, photography, sports, yoga, dance, kayaking, surfing, sailing, paddle boarding, fly fishing, etc.
- Entry Passes, Memberships** | Museum, local/national park, zoo, aquarium, gym/pool/rec center, climbing gym, campground, summer camp, amusement park
- Tickets** | Movie, concert, play, sporting event, puppet show, magician
- Adventures** | Fishing, bungee jumping, ziplining, whale watching, camping
- Handmade** | Homemade blanket or quilt, crocheted stuffed animals, doll clothes/accessories
- Secondhand** | Dress-up supplies (bandanas, suspenders, evening gowns, scarves, etc.), outgrown family-fun favorites (board games, books, high-quality toys)
- Services** | Give the gift of giving to those less fortunate. With a gift card to an organization like Kiva or Global Giving, the recipient can have fun picking their favorite cause or charity to support



“If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them, and half as much money.”

—Abigail Van Buren

## Coupon Book

Download [a free, easy-to-use template](#) that you can print out and customize; if you're feeling generous, make an entire book of coupons! Some of our favorite kid-friendly coupon ideas:

- Good for One Late Bedtime
- Good for One Extra Story at Bedtime
- Good for One Chore-Free Day
- Good for One Trip to... (library, playground, zoo, etc.)
- Good for One Family Trip to the Movie Theater (Kid's Choice)
- Good for One "Screen-Free Parents" Weekend
- Good for One Homemade Dinner of Your Choice
- Good for One Breakfast for Dinner
- Good for One Fruit or Veggie Skip (and still eat dessert)
- "Eat Dessert First" Pass
- Good for One Breakfast at a Restaurant of Your Choice
- Good for One Dinner at a Restaurant of Your Choice
- Good for Your Choice of Dinner—For a Week!
- Redeem for One Treat at Grocery Store
- Good for an Ice Cream Sundae Party
- Good for One S'mores-Making and Ghost Story-Reading Bonfire
- Good for One Hike at a State Park of Your Choosing
- Let's Go Fly a Kite. Pick a Day.
- Kid's Choice of Activity. Good for one hour.
- Good for an Afternoon of Crafting
- Good for a Ride on a Merry-Go-Round
- Good for a Ride on the Train/Subway
- Good for a Night of Backyard Camping
- Good for Bowling with a Friend
- Good for One Full Tank of Gas (for the older kids in your life!)
- Good for Best Seat in the Car for a Week
- Good for One Full PJ Day
- Good for Bike Ride with Mom/Dad
- Good for One Double Allowance
- King/Queen for the Day
- Good for 10 Music Downloads
- Good for One Tickle Session
- Good for One Fort-Building Session
- Good for One Family Game Night
- Good for One Family Pizza Night
- Good for One Session of Family Laser Tag
- Good for One Night of Indoor Camping
- "Get Out of Time-Out Free" Pass

# From the Kids

---

It's very important that kids understand that giving is as valuable as receiving. Here's a list of coupon book ideas that would make perfect gifts from your kids to their loved ones. Download a [free coupon book template](#).

## Coupon Book

- Good for One Afternoon of Sorting, Folding, and Putting Away Laundry
- Good for One Super Clean Room
- Good for One Automatic Argument Win (good for siblings!)
- Good for One Toy of Mine for a Week (another good sibling gift)
- Good for Sparkling Clean Dishes All Day Long
- Good for "Sleep as Long as You Want" Saturday Morning
- Good for Whole House Vacuuming
- Good for One Car Wash/Cleaning
- Take Out the Trash Pass
- Good for One Bear Hug (never expires!)
- Good for One Dust-free House



# For Your Partner

---

## Date-Night Passport

Create a booklet or pamphlet with 12 date-night itineraries that you know would delight your partner. Then choose one itinerary every month of the year. No more “you choose... no, you choose.”

## The Gift of Nostalgia

Unless your first date was an absolute disaster, a thoughtful gift idea would be to try to recreate that experience (although it might be funny to recreate a bad experience and try to improve it!). If you saw a movie on your first date, find it on Netflix. Did you eat Mexican food? Order similar dishes or, if you're feeling enthusiastic, have a cooking date prior to the movie.

## Classes/Lessons

Gift them a class or share your own talents: art, photography, cooking, sports, yoga, dance, music, kayaking, surfing, paddle boarding, sailing, scuba diving, fly fishing, jewelry making, knitting, letterpress, floral design, pottery, glass blowing, writing/journaling

## Event Tickets

Movie, concert, opera, play, Broadway show, comedy show, music festival, lecture series, sporting event, car/boat show

## Outdoor Pursuits

Hiking/picnic, rafting, horseback riding, skiing/snowboarding, rock climbing, sailing, hang gliding, caving, camping, backyard camping

## Tours

Winery/brewery, historic/cultural site, scenic railroad, local/ethnic food, birding/wildflower/naturalist

## Service

Does your partner have a favorite local charity? Commit to volunteering hours together in the upcoming year

## Gift Card

Local restaurant/coffee shop, bookstore, car sharing site, music venue

## Coupon Book

Download [a free, easy-to-use template](#) that you can print out and customize; if you're feeling generous, make an entire book of coupons! Some of our favorite partner coupon ideas:

- Good for One Breakfast in Bed
- Good for One Romantic Dinner In
- Good for One Romantic Dinner Out
- Good for One Lunch Date
- Good for One Hot Lunch Delivered to Office
- Good for One Foot Rub
- Good for One Back Massage
- Good for One Slow Dance



# For Your Partner

---

## Coupon Book (continued)

- Good for One Romantic Stroll
- Good for One Hike and Picnic Outing
- Good for One Free Wish
- Good for One Movie Date of Your Choice
- Good for One One Evening at a Hotel
- Good for One Road Trip
- Weekend Getaway Pass
- Good for One Day Off from Diaper Duty
- Good for One Uninterrupted Nap
- Good for Two Hours of Free Time
- Good for One Mental Health Day
- Good for One Evening of Control the Remote
- Automatic Argument Win
- “Get Out of the Doghouse Free” Card



“Perhaps the perfect gift is not in getting, but rather in the letting go. Letting go of societal standards...letting go of monetary expectations...letting go of perfection...letting go of consumer pressure...letting go of the need to out-do, impress, or check off the list. Let us give like the heart of a child—presenting the best of ourselves as if we were a carefully picked dandelion bouquet held out with love.”

—Rachel Macy Stafford

# For Parents/Grandparents

---

<b>Classes/Lessons</b>	Gift them a class or share your own talents: art, photography, cooking, sports, yoga, dance, music, kayaking, surfing, paddle boarding, scuba diving, fly fishing, jewelry making, quilting, knitting, letterpress, floral design, pottery, glass blowing, writing/journaling, family ancestry
<b>Entry Passes/Memberships</b>	Museum, local/national park, zoo/aquarium, gym/pool/rec center, climbing gym, spa/hot springs, campground, running/bike race, local CSA (community supported agriculture), rail pass, AAA, national parks pass
<b>Event Tickets</b>	Movie, concert, opera, play, Broadway show, comedy show, music festival, lecture series, sporting event, car/boat show
<b>Household Help</b>	Organizing, cleaning, decluttering, gardening, yard work, errands, repair work, sewing/tailoring, resale/yard sale, catering, house sitting, interior design help, landscaping
<b>Show Off Your Talents</b>	If mom and dad paid for singing lessons, show your appreciation by writing a song. If you're a writer, express your feelings in a letter or poem—tell them in great detail all the things you appreciate about them. More of a visual person? Make a video!
<b>Share a Skill</b>	Does your mom want to start a blog or learn some yoga poses? Does your dad want to get more tech savvy? If you're skilled in these areas, spend a few hours teaching them the basics. Or, look into buying them some classes. Check out <a href="#">Skillshare</a> for a great selection of affordable classes that your parents could do right in their living room
<b>A Day Out</b>	Sit down and think about what your mom or dad's ideal day would look like. Does she have a favorite breakfast place? A museum exhibit she's been wanting to see? Does he love to stroll through gardens or historic neighborhoods? Is there a friend he's been wanting to visit but doesn't want to make the drive alone? It doesn't have to be expensive. To make it extra fun, you could create a little "travel brochure" that includes a list of the activities and the times
<b>Memory Book</b>	Create a scrapbook for your parents that details your favorite memories of them from your childhood. If you have siblings, get them to contribute. Come up with categories—funniest memory, sweetest memory, most impressive memory—and include photos or drawings as well. This is a gift destined to become a cherished family treasure

# For Parents/Grandparents

---

## Planning Ahead

Make a family calendar marked with important dates, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and family gatherings. Decorate the calendar with family photos.

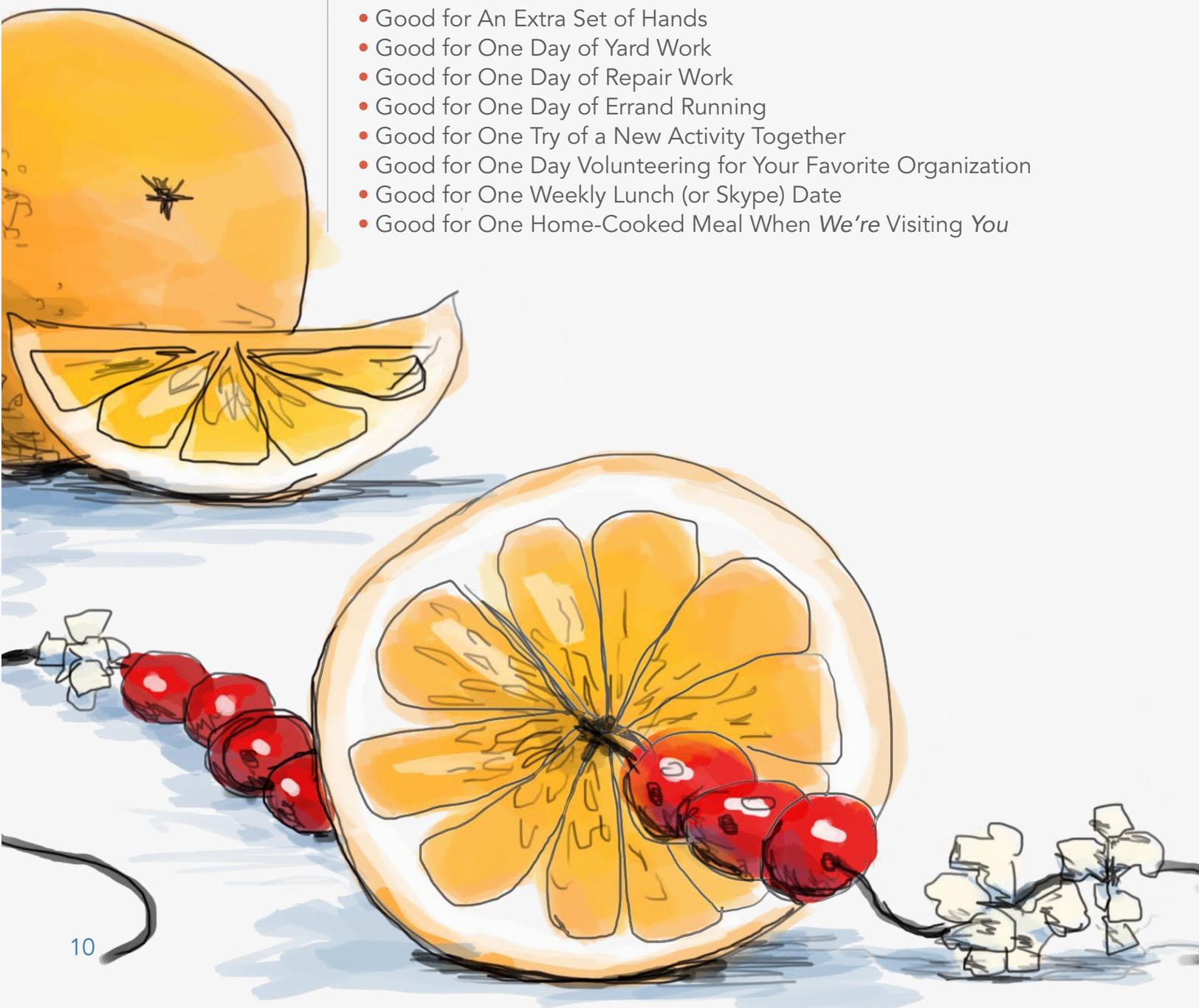
## Gift Card

Local restaurant/coffee shop, bookstore, car sharing site, music venue

## Coupon Book

Download [a free, easy-to-use template](#) that you can print out and customize; if you're feeling generous, make an entire book of coupons! Some of our favorite parent/grandparent coupon ideas:

- Good for Pet Care on Your Next Vacation
- Good for An Extra Set of Hands
- Good for One Day of Yard Work
- Good for One Day of Repair Work
- Good for One Day of Errand Running
- Good for One Try of a New Activity Together
- Good for One Day Volunteering for Your Favorite Organization
- Good for One Weekly Lunch (or Skype) Date
- Good for One Home-Cooked Meal When We're Visiting You



# For Young Adults

---

- Classes/Lessons** | Gift them a class or share your own talents: art, photography, cooking, sports, yoga, dance, music, kayaking, surfing, paddle boarding, scuba diving, fly fishing, jewelry making, knitting, letterpress, floral design, pottery, glass blowing, writing/journaling
- Entry Passes/Memberships** | Museum, local/national park, zoo/aquarium, gym/pool/rec center, climbing gym, spa/hot springs, campground, running/bike race, local CSA, rail pass, AAA, amusement park
- Event Tickets** | Movie, concert, opera, play, Broadway show, comedy show, music festival, lecture series, sporting event
- Adventures** | Skydiving, hot air ballooning, bungee jumping, ziplining, whale watching, deep-sea fishing, rafting, horseback riding, skiing/snowboarding, rock climbing, sailing, hang gliding, caving, camping, backyard camping
- Service** | Donate or volunteer your time to their favorite charity. Or, give the gift of giving to those less fortunate. With a gift card to an organization like Kiva or Global Giving, the recipient can pick their favorite cause or charity to support.
- Travel** | Contribution toward a dream vacation, airline miles, hotel points, city tours, rail pass, national parks pass
- Recipe Book** | Collect your favorite recipes and pass them along. Depending on the recipient, an accompanying cooking lesson may be appreciated as well.
- Party in a Box** | Author Shauna Niequist gave her bachelor brother a pan of chicken enchiladas and added chips, salsa, black beans, beer, and a jar of caramel sauce on the side. In the card, she added cooking instructions and told him to buy a lime, vanilla ice cream, and cilantro just before hosting a party. If you have a go-to, make-ahead meal that's perfect for entertaining, make your own party in a box.
- Gift Card** | Local restaurant/coffee shop, bookstore, car sharing site, music venue
- Career** | Résumé help, advice session, shadow opportunity



# For New Parents

---

**Babysitting Help** | If there's an older sibling, an offer to spend some time focused on big brother or big sister may also be appreciated.

**Household Help** | Homemade meals, organizing, decluttering, cleaning, gardening, yard work, errands, repair work, sewing/tailoring, catering, landscaping, babyproofing

**Coupon Book** | Download [a free, easy-to-use template](#) that you can print out and customize; if you're feeling generous, make an entire book of coupons! Some of our favorite new parent coupon ideas:

- Good for One Afternoon of Organizing Help
- Good for An Extra Set of Hands
- Good for One Day of Yard Work
- Good for One Day of Repair Work
- Good for one Family Photography Session
- Good for One Day of Errand Running
- Good for One Week of Dog Walking
- Good for One Meal Brought to You
- "Dessert of the Month" Subscription
- Good for One Evening of Babysitting
- Good for Help with Spring Cleaning
- Good for Help with Fall Raking
- Good for Two Snow Shoveling Sessions



# For the Whole Family

**Entry Passes/ Memberships** | Museum, local/national park, zoo/aquarium, gym/pool/rec center, climbing gym, spa/hot springs, campground, running/bike race, local CSA, rail pass, AAA, national parks pass

**Event Tickets** | Movie, concert, opera, play, Broadway show, comedy show, music festival, lecture series, sporting event, car/boat show

**Outdoor Pursuits** | Hiking/picnic, rafting, horseback riding, skiing/snowboarding, rock climbing, sailing, hang gliding, caving, camping, backyard camping

**Tours** | Farm/petting zoo, berry picking, historic/cultural site, scenic railroad, local/ethnic food, birding/wildflower/naturalist

**Travel** | Contribution toward a dream vacation, airline miles, hotel points

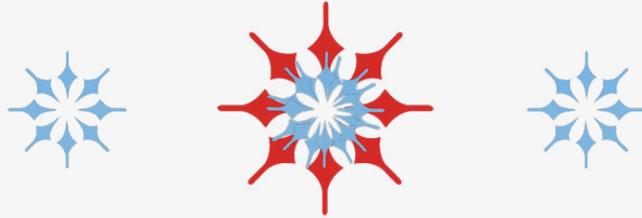
**Service** | Donate to their favorite charity or volunteer with them at their favorite local organization

- Donate to their local library. Often, libraries have wishlists, and, when you purchase a book, you can get a special book plate with the family's name along with a special message
- Give the gift of giving to those less fortunate. With a gift card to an organization like Kiva or Global Giving, they can pick their favorite cause or charity to support



# More Fun, Less Stuff

---

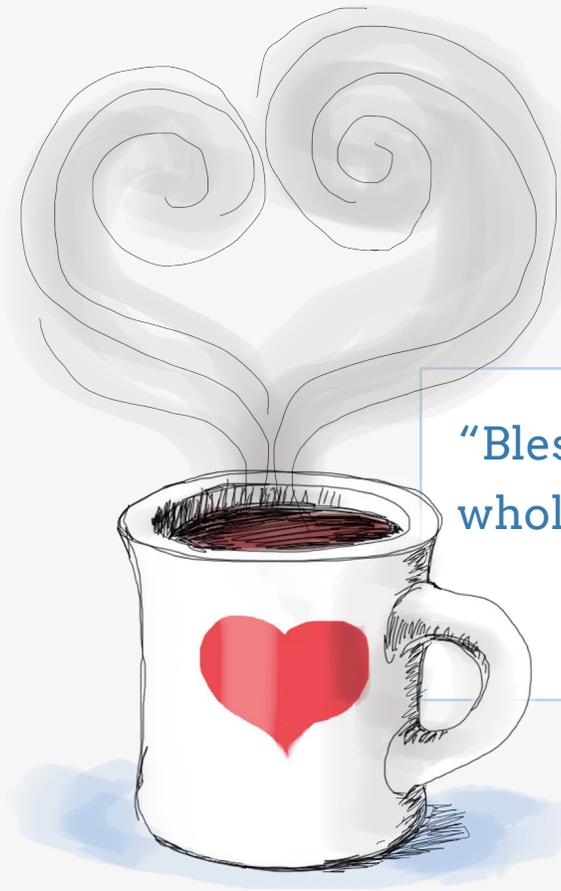


For more tips and resources to help you reduce stress and increase joy this holiday season, be sure to check out our [Simplify the Holidays](#) campaign. You'll find our [free coupon book template](#), a gift tracker, a six-week calendar with daily inspirations and practical tips, and more resources to focus on more of what matters this holiday season—and less of what doesn't.



# More Fun, Less Stuff

---



“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”

—Hamilton Wright Mabie

*If you enjoyed this resource, please share it with your friends and family! Also, please consider [making a donation](#) to support the creation of more of these types of resources. Our work depends on the generosity and support of people like you.*

the center for a new  
**american**  
**dream**  
more of what matters

**so kind**  
registry  
MORE FUN LESS STUFF

The More Fun, Less Stuff Catalog © November 2016  
Center for a New American Dream

Any text in this catalog may be reprinted free of charge provided that credit is given to the Center for a New American Dream and our website is included.

[www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)

[www.simplifyholidays.org](http://www.simplifyholidays.org)

[Donate now!](#)

