

2009 Pocatello Alternative Gift Market and Ten Thousand Villages Craft Fair

As we all struggle through this period of economic hardship, we know that each dollar must be spent wisely and purposefully. With the holidays approaching, one way to spend wisely is to give alternative gifts. Instead of buying friends and loved ones “stuff” that needs to be dusted or sold at a future yard sale, purchase health and dental care for a person in Sudan or a goat for a family in Haiti to help combat poverty. For your purchase or donation, your loved one will receive an attractive holiday card informing them about the gift given in their honor. And rest assured that this gift will be money well spent!

The 2009 Pocatello Alternative Gift Market and Ten Thousand Villages Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 9-4 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ gymnasium at 309 North Garfield, behind Pocatello High School.

The Alternative Gift Market offers a variety of meaningful, life-sustaining gifts for people in need in the USA and around the world. Attendees can browse through display booths featuring one-of-a-kind humanitarian gifts that help those in need. All donations through the purchase of alternative gifts are tax-deductible.

In addition, there will be a large display of internationally handcrafted items for sale from Ten Thousand Villages including home décor and finely crafted gifts. By working with over 100 artisan groups in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, Ten Thousand Villages helps artisans earn a fair wage for their work and thus improve their quality of life.

Alternative gift markets were originally created by Harriet Prichard, a schoolteacher from California who wanted to model for her school children a noncommercial way to give gifts at Christmas. In 1980, she founded Alternative Gifts International (AGI), which has since raised more than 20 million dollars to empower the world’s poorest citizens and to preserve the planet.

Last year, the Pocatello Alternative Gift Market ranked among the top ten markets in the nation in terms of donations.

Anyone who wishes to sponsor a booth, help with preparations, participate on Market day or would just like additional information may contact Shannon Ansley (232-1538, anslshan@isu.edu), Carol Stirling (233-8208, carolstirling@yahoo.com), or Cathleen Tarp (478-1665, tarphele@isu.edu).