Alternative Christmas Shop

SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026











GIVING HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

Celebrate this Holiday Season with Gifts of Hope.

The Alternative Christmas Shop (ACS) of Swarthmore Presbyterian Church gives hope around the world by showcasing often lesser-known charities as "alternative" holiday gift opportunities. Your gifts are contributions to charitable causes made in honor of family members, friends, colleagues, and others for whom you are thankful in your life.

ACS expands SPC's outreach efforts globally, encompassing local, regional, national, and international charitable programs within five general categories which the ACS Committee considers important: Children and Education, Animals and the Environment, Empowerment and Social Justice, Health and Welfare, and U.S. Military and First Responders.

Since it was established in 2006, ACS has raised over $553,000 for more than 360 causes around the world.

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Alternative Christmas Shop

SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE, ANIMALS, AND THE PLANET.

CHILDREN & EDUCATION

1. THE BARN AT SPRING BROOK FARM p.2
2. MAKING A CHANGE GROUP p.3
3. TEACH RWANDA/BRIGHT SCHOOL p.3

ANIMALS & THE ENVIRONMENT

4. CRC WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION p.4
5. FORGOTTEN CATS, INC. p.4
6. MAIN LINE DEPUTY DOG p.5

EMPOWERMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

7. ARDELLA'S HOUSE INC. p.6
8. CENTRO DE APOYO COMUNITARIO p.6
9. NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT p.7
10. WELL ROOTED PA p.7

HEALTH & WELFARE

11. BROAD STREET LOVE p.8
12. CPK HEALTH CLINICS p.9
13. THE JOY OF SOX p.9
14. LCH HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES p.10
15. A MOMENT OF MAGIC p.10
16. OPEN TABLE SATURDAY/CHESTER EASTSIDE p.11
17. UCCP CARES p.11
18. WILL TRIPPLEY FOUNDATION p.12

U.S. MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

19. COMPEERCORPS p.12
20. VETERANS AIRLIFT COMMAND p.13



CHILDREN & EDUCATION

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm

Camp for Kids

Provide healing and hope for disabled children and teens.

Gift: **ANIMAL CARE FOR THERAPEUTIC ANIMALS** ***Price:*** **$20**

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm provides animal-assisted and nature-based day camp experiences for children ages 2-17 who have physical, cognitive and/or developmental disabilities. Children arrive at The Barn carrying challenges that can feel overwhelming, yet through compassion, connection and the gentle presence of animals and natural spaces, they discover strength, confidence and joy. The Barn's programs create the conditions where children learn to trust themselves, families find hope, and small moments of progress blossom into lasting change. In 2025, The Barn served 324 children from 61 schools and 28 school districts located in Montgomery, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties. In 2025, The Barn provided financial aid to 27% of campers, and 345 volunteers contributed over 4,300 service hours.

More information: springbrook-farm.org

CHILDREN & EDUCATION

Making a Change Group

Empowering Youth and Families

Build community in Chester and Delaware County.

Gift: **FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP FOR A FAMILY** ***Price:*** **$60**

Making a Change empowers youth and families through prevention, intervention, and transformation services. It creates lasting positive change through three core programs: 1) gun violence intervention and education for at-risk youth ages 10-24; 2) tutoring and mentoring of youth ages 8-17; and 3) workshops and leadership development for parents and caregivers that build skills in financial literacy, family communication, job readiness, and healthy living. Financial literacy workshops are tailored to each family's needs, meeting them where they are and helping them move forward with a good understanding of budgeting, taxes, and other fundamentals of household finance. By strengthening essential competencies and promoting constructive life choices, Making a Change is creating a positive difference for those most impacted by violence and adversity.

More information: makingachangegroup.org

CHILDREN & EDUCATION

TEACH Rwanda/Bright School

Teacher Training for Music

Transform the educational experience for children by learning music.

Gift: **STARTER PACK OF SHEET MUSIC FOR ONE CLASS** ***Price:*** **$20**

Founded in 2002, TEACH Rwanda's mission focuses on teacher education and children's enrichment, providing teachers and education leaders throughout Rwanda with opportunities for professional development and creating a network of partners implementing global best practices in play- and project-based learning. TEACH Rwanda trains and mentors teachers at Bright School, one of two exemplary schools sponsored by the TEACH Rwanda program. The school hosts international visitors, government officials, researchers, other NGOs, and Rwandan educators, where they see engaging teaching practices in action as children work to explore Rwanda-relevant themes and challenges. TEACH Rwanda aspires to build a music education program at Bright School to further enhance teaching training and education enrichment for its pre-school through sixth grade students.

More information: teachrwanda.org/bright-school

CRC Watersheds Association

Plant a Tree, Save a Stream

Reforest stream banks with native trees and shrubs to filter groundwater and enhance habitat.

Gift: **PLANT A NATIVE TREE TO PROTECT A STREAM** ***Price:*** **$50**

CRC Watersheds Association supports the enjoyment, restoration, conservation, protection and prudent management of natural resources across the Chester, Ridley and Crum watersheds--132 square miles spanning 40 municipalities. For over 50 years, CRC has worked to maintain healthy watersheds, which are vital to environmental stability, human health, recreation, and the region's drinking water supply. A key program focus is reforesting stream banks to provide shade that cools water temperatures and reduces erosion from stormwater runoff. CRC's volunteer program has removed 320 tons of trash and over 36,000 pounds of debris from local streams during annual cleanups and has cleared invasive plants from parks and open spaces. CRC also offers educational programs; nature walks and community engagement activities to foster environmental stewardship throughout the watershed region.

More information: crcwatersheds.org

Forgotten Cats, Inc.

Cat/Kitten Aid and Rescue

Humanely reduce the homeless cat population through TVNR and adopting out friendly cats and kittens.

Gift: **CAT MEDICAL EXAM** ***Price:*** **$25**

Forgotten Cats, Inc. is a beacon of compassion and leadership in the realm of humane practices as the foremost trap, vaccinate, neuter and return (TVNR) nonprofit across Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. Forgotten Cats values every life and operates as a no-kill organization. Since 2003, Forgotten Cats has sterilized over 220,000 cats and facilitated the adoption of over 21,000 kittens and cats to loving homes. Its work transforms the lives of rescued felines and enriches homes for thousands of families.

More information: forgottencats.org

Main Line Deputy Dog

Paws Helping People

Train rescue dogs to assist people with mental or physical disabilities.

Gift: **EZ WALK HARNESS FOR A SERVICE DOG** ***Price:*** **$25**

Main Line Deputy Dog creates new and fulfilling lives for rescue dogs while also changing the lives of people with mental or physical disabilities. Rescue dogs are paired with individuals who can benefit from a canine companion, and the pair is trained to work together as a team. Using gentle, positive training methods, the dogs learn to assist with tasks in the home and provide support as their handlers participate more independently in the community. This mutual alliance gives both the dogs and their human partners a renewed sense of purpose. Together they build confidence, independence, and self-respect while creating a lasting bond based on trust, companionship, and understanding.

More information: MLDD.org







EMPOWERMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ardella's House Inc.

Women Moving Past Incarceration

Help women and girls with criminal justice histories realize new possibilities for their lives.

Gift: **HYGIENE ESSENTIALS** ***Price:*** **$15**

Women represent the fastest-growing prison population in the United States, and yet systemic challenges and societal barriers complicate their reintegration into society after incarceration. Founded in 2010 in West Philadelphia, Ardella's House is committed to helping women and girls with criminal justice histories realize new possibilities for themselves and their families. The program provides temporary housing for women seeking to rebuild their families following the painful separation that results from incarceration, and other support programs help them manage past trauma and domestic abuse and move forward toward employment and financial independence. As these women and girls adjust to life after incarceration, personal care becomes an important part of their new identity and new life.

More information: ardellashouse.org

EMPOWERMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Centro de Apoyo Comunitario

Apoyo Means Support

Connect neighbors in DelCo and Southeast PA to the resources they need to thrive.

Gift: **SHELF-STABLE GROCERIES** ***Price:*** **$50**

Centro de Apoyo Comunitario (Centro Apoyo) is a community-rooted nonprofit founded in 2005 by four Latina women. It is dedicated to uplifting immigrant, refugee and underserved families across Delaware County and Southeastern Pennsylvania through culturally responsive support. Centro Apoyo provides bilingual emergency assistance, case management services, community education, emotional wellness support, food distribution, and family support programs to build long-term stability, connection, empowerment and belonging. Centro Apoyo's current services include case management for 50 community members, food delivery to 120 families each month, and more than 40 volunteers helping with community outreach, food distribution, interpretation, and family services. In the current political environment, extra support for families afraid to leave home is critically important.

More information: centroapoyo.org

EMPOWERMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

New Sanctuary Movement

Keep Immigrant Families Together

Support immigrant families separated due to detention.

Gift: **A PORTION OF BOND FEES** ***Price:*** **$50**

Through grassroots organizing in Philadelphia, led by affected immigrants, New Sanctuary Movement helps strengthen immigrant communities to alter the power imbalance, organize direct action campaigns, build the individual and collective capacity of immigrant communities, and bring together people regardless of nationality, faith, race or status in solidarity to work for change. Key programs include Accompaniment, Political Education, and Leadership Development. The Community Fund for Bond and Legal Aid was established to help family members pay the cost for release of loved ones from detention or for legal fees.

More information: sanctuaryphiladelphia.org

EMPOWERMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Well Rooted PA

Growing Roots, Building Futures

Support young adults in the greater Phila. area transitioning from foster care to independent living.

Gift: **HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS TO PLANT NEW ROOTS** ***Price:*** **$35**

Well Rooted PA supports, nurtures and empowers young adults and families who are entering, exiting, and living in the foster care system. Seeking to serve the 20% of young adults who become instantly homeless when they transition out of foster care at age 18, Well Rooted's mentorship program supports young adults as they create their own roots, by helping them meet short term needs and connecting them to resources to achieve long term goals. Well Rooted provides personal growth experiences, mental health services, and "wish list" items needed for education or employment. The goal of the program is to provide young adults with the feeling that they are being planted, not just placed, as they become independent adults.

More information: wellrootedpa.org



HEALTH & WELFARE

Broad Street Love

You've Got Mail!

Support radical hospitality for people experiencing homelessness or lack of stable, safe housing.

Gift: **SECURE MAILING ADDRESS FOR ONE YEAR** ***Price:*** **$25**

Broad Street Love (formerly Broad Street Ministry) is a community hub in Center City providing stabilizing services to those experiencing deep poverty. Rooted in dignity and care, Broad Street Love offers an open, safe space where 7,000 Philadelphians accessed essential services in 2025. Led by a compassionate team of dedicated community advocates, Broad Street Love strives to support guests with person-centered service and radical hospitality–embracing all with empathy and compassion and affirming the dignity of every individual. Broad Street Love currently serves as the mailing address for 3,600 individuals–essential to establish residency, obtain identification documents, search for employment, and receive benefits. Staff sort and distribute thousands of pieces of mail each year.

More information: broadstreetlove.org

HEALTH & WELFARE

CPK Health Clinics

New Lives, Starting Off Right

Provide post-delivery supplies to new mothers.

Gift: **SAFE MOTHERHOOD KIT (POST-DELIVERY SUPPLIES)** ***Price:*** **$25**

The capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kinshasa, is home to over 15 million people. Here, the Medical Benevolence Foundation partners with The Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa (CPK) to manage seven health centers providing care in heavily populated disadvantaged neighborhoods. These health centers offer outpatient services including laboratory, maternity, and primary health care. The DRC has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world, and these clinics focus on pre-natal, delivery, post-natal and pediatric care to strengthen maternal outcomes. SPC has been engaged in ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo for many years through the World Mission Committee. Support for the Safe Motherhood program will broaden our work, opening inroads for direct partnership with the Presbyterian Community in Kinshasa.

More information: mbf.org/cpk-clinics

HEALTH & WELFARE

The Joy of Sox

Comfort and Joy in Socks

Provide comfort, joy and health through new socks for those experiencing homelessness.

Gift: **ONE YEAR OF SOCKS (12 PAIRS)** ***Price:*** **$25**

The Joy of Sox (TJOS) mission is to provide joy and health for those experiencing homelessness by giving them new socks. TJOS serves the Philadelphia area and internationally, including Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Uganda. The organization partners with community organizations, schools and colleges, service clubs, church groups, and others to host sock drives to collect new socks for those in need. TJOS packages and distributes socks to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and other locations serving those who would benefit from this simple expression of care. The Joy of Sox also accepts financial donations and uses those funds to purchase socks in quantity to amplify the impact of their mission.

More information: tjos.org

HEALTH & WELFARE

LCH Health and Community Services

Healthcare for Migrant Workers

Serve the needs of migrant workers in the Chester County mushroom industry.

Gift: **ADULT HEALTH SCREENING** ***Price:*** **$75**

Established in 1973 in Kennett Square, La Communidad Hispano (LCH) was founded by residents, clergy, and supporters to provide bilingual social services to the predominantly transitory migrant community. In over 50 years of service, LCH has expanded to meet the needs of this population, and currently provides primary care, women's health, dental, pediatric and outpatient behavioral health services in addition to social services. LCH served 8,700 patients in 2025, 45% of whom were underinsured or impoverished. LCH is a Federally Certified Health Center recognized by the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, and is led by a team of passionate staff with a wide range of experience in the health care and social services fields.

More information: lchcommunityhealth.org

HEALTH & WELFARE

A Moment of Magic

Laughter as Medicine

Support medically and emotionally vulnerable children with joyful play and creative expression.

Gift: **BIRTHDAY BOX WITH TOYS, BOOKS & ART SUPPLIES** ***Price:*** **$25**

A Moment of Magic (AMoM) is a national nonprofit dedicated to improving the emotional well-being of medically and emotionally vulnerable children and their families. Through trained volunteers, character visits, creative arts, and trauma-informed programming, AMoM brings joy, comfort, and meaningful human connection to children facing serious illnesses, disabilities, and extended hospital stays. Its signature Express, Create, Heal program uses art and social-emotional learning to help children build resilience and express their feelings. Partnering with hospitals, treatment centers, and community organizations across the United States, AMoM complements medical care by addressing the emotional needs of children, empowering them to experience moments of hope, play, and healing during some of life's most challenging circumstances.

More information: amomentofmagic.org

HEALTH & WELFARE

Open Table Saturday/Chester Eastside

Hot Meals for Chester

Provide hot meals to food-insecure neighbors in Chester.

Gift: **FIVE HOT MEALS FOR RESIDENTS OF CHESTER** ***Price:*** **$35**

Chester Eastside is a longtime partner of Swarthmore Presbyterian Church (SPC), as we minister together to build up our shared community. Open Table is the hot meals program of Chester Eastside, run three days a week. Two years ago, SPC worked with CEI to expand to a weekend day when there are far fewer options for people seeking a hot meal. Open Table Saturday is now a regular part of the schedule, with five volunteers from SPC and the surrounding community serving up to 65 guests a delicious meal provided by a local catering company, Everybody Eats Philly. While food is the impetus behind the gathering, the broader purpose is to foster community among guests and volunteers, deepening cross-community relationships.

More information: ceichester.org

HEALTH & WELFARE

UCCP Cares

Crisis Relief for the Philippines

Support communities experiencing disaster.

Gift: **FRESH FOOD AND NECESSITIES FOR DISASTER AREAS** ***Price:*** **$15**

The Philippines is ranked third in the 2018 World Risk Index of most disaster-prone countries in the world. Its citizens experience disasters including strong typhoons, heavy monsoon rains, landslides, flooding, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and numerous complex emergencies due to violence and armed conflict. The social and economic costs of these disasters are rising due to population growth, change in land-use patterns, internal migration, unplanned urbanization, and global climate change. The United Church of Christ in the Philippines established Church Aid and Relief Services (UCCP Cares) to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of communities and aid in strengthening them. Programs include emergency response, disaster risk and reduction management, humanitarian aid, resilience and empowerment programs, and community building and advocacy.

More information: uccpchurch.com

HEALTH & WELFARE

Will Trippley Foundation

Moving Forward After Trauma

Help children and families cope with and survive traumatic loss.

Gift: **ART THERAPY SUPPLIES** ***Price:*** **$25**

For over 18 years, the Will Trippley Foundation has helped children and families as they navigate grief, trauma, and loss. With roots in Chester, PA and Delaware County, the Foundation's impact reaches across Pennsylvania and surrounding communities, offering consistent, compassionate, and culturally responsive care. Programs are tailored to individual families' needs related to death, incarceration, addiction, divorce, or other family trauma, with the goal of building coping skills and resilience. Staff work to create safe, healing-centered spaces to allow families to process their experience and begin moving forward with strength, healing, and hope. The Foundation sponsors overnight camping, art therapy, individual counseling for children, and a running program. Services and essential resources are offered at no cost, helping families to live fulfilling lives beyond loss.

More information: willtripley.org

U.S. MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

CompeerCORPS

Vets Guiding Vets

Build a support network for new veterans by matching them with peer veteran mentors.

Gift: **VETERAN LUNCH OUTING** ***Price:*** **$35**

The CompeerCORPS program, in collaboration with the Veterans Outreach Center, creates a supportive network for veterans who can benefit from a peer mentor and meaningful community connection. Veteran mentors are matched with new veterans based on shared interests, age range, military service, and gender. The program is designed to support a successful transition to civilian life while promoting overall wellness, expanding interests and hobbies, encouraging community engagement, and strengthening connections across generations of veterans. Veterans who have served and reintegrated into their communities offer unique understanding and support to those beginning to navigate this transition. Their shared military experience can play a powerful role in recovery and in building trust, connection, and hope.

More information: compeerfriends.org/compeercorps



U.S. MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

Veterans Airlift Command

Wings for Wounded Warriors

Support injured veterans with free flights to medical care, rehabilitation, and family visits.

Gift: **MEDICAL FLIGHT ASSISTANCE** ***Price:*** **$50**

Veterans Airlift Command (VAC) provides free private air transportation to combat-injured veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Through a nationwide network of volunteer pilots and aircraft owners, VAC connects those who have served with flights to medical treatment, rehabilitation programs, adaptive sporting events, and other essential destinations. The organization also arranges compassionate travel for family members visiting hospitalized service members to help maintain vital support during recovery. By eliminating transportation barriers and travel costs, Veterans Airlift Command ensures veterans can access specialized care and meaningful opportunities that improve their health, independence, and quality of life while honoring their service and sacrifice.

More information: veteransairlift.org

Alternative Christmas Shop

Shop in person in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings, December 6, 13 and 20. Shop closes on December 20.

For more information, scan the QR code below, or visit **swarthmorepres.org/alternative-christmas-shop-2026**.

2026 ACS COMMITTEE

Betty Ann Flynn (Co-Chair), Jan Semler (Co-Chair), Barbara Addison, Charlene Chapman, Abbie Rowley, Carol Singley, Max Smith, Susanne Smith, Mandy Weiss

