

## Alternative Gifting

The season of giving is upon us, and what better way to give this year than gift sustainably? People are aware now more than ever that every dollar we spend makes an impact on the world, whether that be positively or negatively. As the world meets for COP28, it is clear that each of us needs to reduce our environmental footprint, especially over a season that has become centred around mass consumption and waste.



### Why give differently?

The impact of commercialism during the Christmas season on the planet is not good. There's the tonnes of plastic packaging; kilometres of wrapping paper; the glittery, unrecyclable cards; and then of course, the stuff itself – endless mountains of clothing, household goods and plastic toys. Science has made us aware that much of this plastic makes its way into our oceans and into our marine life.

But the impact on our mental health is also huge. 2 in 3 people wish they had less stuff. Author James Wallman even coined the term 'stuffocation' as a feeling of being overwhelmed and weighed down by material things or "stuff".

We all know that this way of doing Christmas is unsustainable and many of us don't want to engage in it anymore. As followers of Christ, we have the responsibility and privilege of caring for God's creation.

**Here are some alternative gift ideas from Global Partners and the Creation Care team.**



PWS&D Gifts of Change



Knox Waterloo and the Knox Waterloo Refugee Fund



A Rocha Canada



The David Suzuki Foundation

**Gifts of Change:** Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is the development and relief agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Donations through the PWS&D Gifts of Change catalogue support marginalized communities across Canada and around the world. Make a gift in the name of a friend or a family member, and PWS&D will send them a card acknowledging the donation.

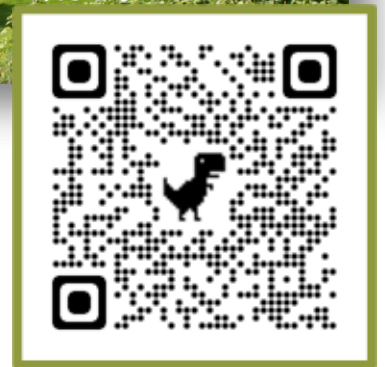
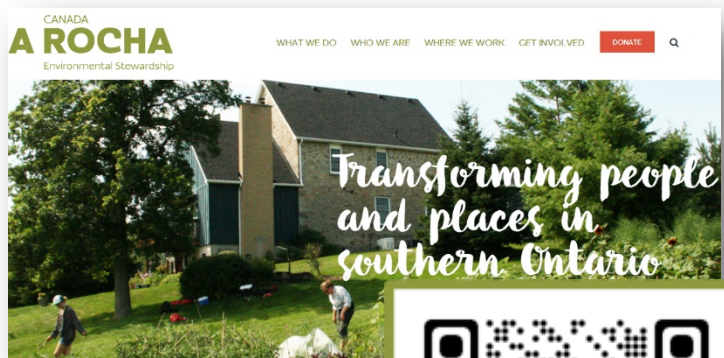


To download the Gifts of Change catalogue and read more about Gifts of Change scan this QR code with your phone or go to



<https://presbyterian.ca/donate/gifts-of-change/>

**A Rocha Canada ([arocha.ca](http://arocha.ca)):** A Rocha is an international Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, environmental education, community-based conservation projects and sustainable agriculture. Projects include preserving sensitive habitats and threatened species, growing food sustainably and feeding people living on low income, inspiring school children and training young people. Shop their [online market](#) for eco-friendly products and books. [Donate](#) to A Rocha in general or to their Programs and Staff roles. Or sign-up your family for one of the programs at their [Cedar Haven Eco-Center](#) in Freelon, Ontario.

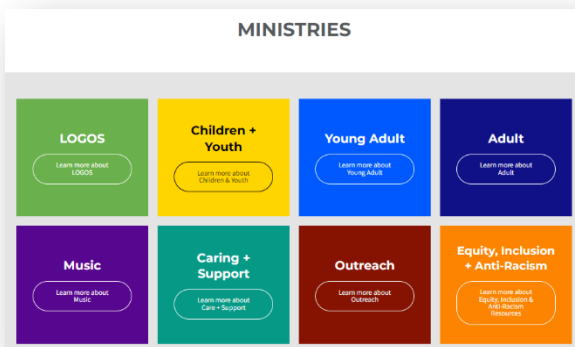


**Knox Waterloo:** Make a gift to Knox in the name of a friend or family member. We give to support the ministries of Christ's church in grateful response to God's abundant grace. Your gift is an investment to maintain and grow our ministries, so that Knox can continue to be a place of welcome, belonging, and hope. Card inserts telling your recipient that you have made a donation to Knox Waterloo in their name are available at the Global Partners display table during coffee hour.

Knox Waterloo



A donation has been made in your honour to Knox Waterloo Presbyterian church. Knox is a caring Christian fellowship committed to God in worship, growth and service. Situated in the middle of one of the most dynamic urban areas in Canada, Knox Waterloo is a place filled with light and transparency. A place of inclusivity and belonging, where our God of Love is honoured and spirituality is nurtured. Your gift is an investment to maintain and grow our ministries, so that Knox can continue to be a place of welcome, belonging, and hope.



**Knox Waterloo Refugee Fund:** No one is a refugee by choice. Christ calls us to serve and defend those who are vulnerable and persecuted. Your gift will support Knox's efforts to sponsor the **Alaa Al Dandal family** who are fleeing Syria, and **Debesay Kahase and his family** who are fleeing Eritrea.

**Knox Waterloo Refugee Fund**



A donation has been made in your honour to the Knox Waterloo Refugee Fund. No one is a refugee by choice. Christ calls us to serve and defend those who are vulnerable and persecuted. Your gift will support Knox Waterloo's efforts to assist 2 refugee families to escape their situation and start a new life here in Canada.

The Alaa Al Dandal family is fleeing the war in Syria. Alaa is the brother of Abdul, whose family we sponsored to Canada 2017.

Debesay Kahase and his family are fleeing persecution in Eritrea. Debesay is the brother of Knox's caretaker Mulugeta.



**The David Suzuki Foundation ([david Suzuki.org](https://david Suzuki.org)):**

“We are interconnected with nature, and with each other. What we do to the planet and its living creatures, we do to ourselves.”

This is the fundamental truth guiding the work at the David Suzuki Foundation. Through evidence-based research, policy analysis, education and citizen empowerment, the foundation conserves and protects the natural environment to create a sustainable Canada. They collaborate with non-profit and community organizations, all levels of government, businesses, and individuals.

The project work of the foundation is supported by individual donors, foundation grants and corporate support. Scan the QR code to go to the foundation’s website. Click on Donate to make a donation on behalf of a friend or family member.

