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Intentional Gift Giving Resources

Give Cash – Creatively

- Camouflage in larger, heavier box
- Origami into a ring and put it in a ring box

www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Make-A-Dollar-Bill-Ring/

- Do a treasure hunt with clues

Gifts for Very Young Children

- Savings Bonds
- Stocks
- College Funds, etc.

- Minnesota Lifetime Licenses: www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/lifetime/residents/index.html

Don't want to give cash?

For Teenagers – Make a car payment for them

For Adult Children – Make a mortgage payment, student loan payment, etc.

Experiences to Give

*Wine Tasting – local liquor stores do this monthly, or subscribe to a monthly service

www.wineofthemonthclub.com/

*Spa Day – give a spa certificate OR create your own

*Charity Event – coupon that you will attend the recipient's favorite charity event with them on your dime (think church tea, ladies night, fundraisers, etc.)

*Dance Class – Suzy & Hondo, The Old Schoolhouse

*Fitness Classes – Fusion Dance Studio

*Cooking Classes – Harmony Coop

*Scuba Lessons – Dive Depot

*Ski – Buena Vista and/or Minnesota State Cross Country ski pass

www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/skipass/index.html

*Community Ed class – www.bemidjicommunityed.com/

*Pottery – Glazed and Amused

*City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation offers family activities that are reasonable and fun:

www.ci.bemidji.mn.us/index.asp?Type=B_EV&SEC={832853B8-DA46-491F-9CC9-BE0A004207F2}&month=12&year=2015

*Minnesota State Parks – www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/gift_card.html

Offers a gift card that can be redeemed for almost anything, including:

- Camping reservations/\$25 annual vehicle pass

- Hiking and Passport Club www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/clubs.html

*State of Minnesota offers lifetime resident licenses for fishing, small game, firearm/archery deer hunting and spearing. They cost a little more and could be a really cool group gift.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/lifetime/residents/index.html

Services to Give:

*Hair/Nails

*House Cleaning

*Professional Organizing

*Carpet Cleaning

*Errand Running

*Snow Shoveling

*Yard Maintenance

*Laundry/Dry Cleaning

*Car Washes

Open up the phone book Yellow Pages and you'll be amazed at what you'll find

Consumables to Give:

*Gas Card

*Grocery Card

*Meat Market Card

*Restaurant Certificates

anything that can be used up is a consumable

Volunteer Together – It's not just the holiday season that is perfect for volunteering!

*Salvation Army Bell ringing – going to do with my crew

*Library

*Food Shelf

*Hospital

*Humane Society

*Community Festivals (check with the Chamber of Commerce or civic groups like the Rotarians or Jaycees)

*Assisted Living Communities can always use volunteers

*Meals on Wheels

*Paul Bunyan Senior Center

*Servants of Shelter www.bemidjipioneer.com/news/3873593-hope-and-help-homeless

*Village of Hope www.villageofhopebemidji.org/

Gifts that Keep on Giving – Use CHARITY NAVIGATOR to affirm the organization uses your donation wisely! <http://www.charitynavigator.org/>

Make the gift resonate with the recipient's values.

*soft spot for helping homeless children? www.achildsplace.org/

Focuses on erasing the impact of homelessness on children and their education

My favorite: Kiva – a nonprofit with a mission to connect people thru lending to alleviate poverty. Basically you can give your recipient the opportunity to pay it forward by making a microloan to someone in need. When they are repaid they can choose to use the funds again, or opt to cash out.

www.kiva.org/