

Gifting hand-crafted

A handmade gift can add a special note of thought to a gift. But remember to think outside the box. Shopping local can actually allow you to achieve the best of both worlds: Gifting an item that is unique and handmade while also saving yourself the time and stress of creating something yourself.

And let's face it, not all of us were blessed with a crafty gene or skilled artisan hands. This is why local markets exist.

Visit a Local Bakery

Hand-crafted is not limited to wares. For those on your list who prefer a minimalist lifestyle (or have everything), consider a consumable gift. Local bakeries go into overdrive during the holiday season, producing many delicious treats. Consumable gifts are a great way to show someone you care. One of the great things about local bakeries is that they take advantage of the high store traffic, and often produce specialty items only available during the holiday. Homemade marshmallows and cocoa-dusted truffles will make any friend feel loved.

A Gift with a Story

Don't hesitate to strike up a conversation with the shop owner. Because local businesses have a vested interest in their own success, they take special care with the items they stock and often know how things are produced. If you find your intended gift has a story, share it. For an added touch of thoughtfulness, choose a piece of fine stationery and write the item's story down. Include the note with the gift.

Online Platforms

Many online forums serve as communities of small-businesses selling handcrafted wares, many of which who work out of their homes. While this may not necessarily be shopping local in the traditional way, it is most definitely shopping small. (You also can probably find local sellers on



Hand-crafted gifts are a beautiful part of Christmas. Whether you are making or receiving a hand-crafted gift, there is special thought put into it, from the color chosen, to the time taken to make it.

these platforms.)

It is important to support small businesses because most

are family-run. A majority of these businesses are so small they need to keep their overhead low,

which means no brick and mortar building. By purchasing items from these shops, you are help-

ing someone else's dream grow and gaining a handmade gift in the process.

Shop for local angels

By shopping for an angel is not only an opportunity to purchase items from small businesses, but to support a child in your own community. In the words of the Salvation Army, "Because of you, a child in need experiences the miracle of Christmas."

About the program

Each Salvation Army Corps has their own process for signing up and qualifying for the Angel Tree program, but all Angel Tree gifts are given to children from infancy through 18 years of age, whose families are in need of extra assistance around the

holidays. The program serves thousands of children every year.

How to adopt an angel

Find an Angel Tree in your area. Most shopping malls host one, but if you are unsure of where to start, the Salvation Army keeps a list of locations on their website you can consult. Each tag on the tree lists a child's name, their age, their gender and a wish lists of items. You can choose any tag you like, using the wish list to guide you as you shop. Then return unwrapped gifts with the

tag to the tree.

Make it a tradition

Shopping for gifts is an exciting activity and is bound to generate extra zest for the holiday season. Every year, bring another friend along. Have the kids in your group choose an angel who is around their age, and enlist their help in choosing items to gift. Let them know that all of the angels listed on the tree are kids in their community. Help the younger members understand that Santa comes in all forms, and by giving what you can, you become Santa to someone else.



The holidays are a wonderful time for most of us to be grateful for what we have. The Salvation Army's Holiday Angel Tree Program is a great way for many to give back and be even more happy with what we have.

thank you.

November is "National Family Caregivers" month. On this occasion, Washington County Hospital & Nursing Home wishes to recognize and commend those in our community who so selflessly provide care in the home for an ill, disabled, or frail loved one. Thank you for your sacrifices and for making a difference in the life of the one who received your loving care.

Washington County Hospital & Nursing Home
Respite Care Service
 251-847-6412 for information



Best Wishes
 for a **PLENTIFUL**
 Thanksgiving

from
 The Town of McIntosh
 251-944-2428

