



Bringing an End to World Hunger Through Unimaginable Blessings

Dear Parents,

During this holiday season, we want to express our appreciation to you for choosing Montessori Pathways to play an important role in your family's life.

We at Montessori Pathways have always been touched by your gifts to the staff and are very appreciative of your personal generosity.

For the past two years, we have suggested something which will enable you to show your appreciation and at the same time, share with us in helping those less fortunate in the world to improve their circumstances.

There is an organization "Heifer International" which provides gifts of livestock and training needed to care for the livestock to help families throughout the world improve their nutrition and generate modest income in sustainable ways. There are heifers that give milk, chickens that produce eggs, sheep that provide wool, rabbits for food and many others.

The key element in this gift program is that these animals are **Living Loans** because each family, in exchange for receiving their animal(s) and training, agrees to give one or more of its animal's offspring to another family in need. In this way, entire villages are lifted out of dire poverty and people are empowered to better lives. This is called "Passing on the Gift" which means that each gift given will actually multiply many times with every new generation. A gift of 105 rabbits to four Chinese families in 1985 has resulted in two million distributed and another two million passed on to other families in need.

We would like permission to include your gift with those of other parents and have you become a participant in Montessori Pathways effort to have a small, but meaningful impact in impoverished global areas.

Maria Montessori's lasting legacy included peace and education work on a global scale. Yes, we can participate, if we choose, in continuing that legacy. Montessori Pathways School can make a difference in the lives of the greater community.

Sincerely,

Montessori Pathways School Staff December 8, 2009

Message from Cathy Zanchó, mom of our student Lydia Zanchó

I guess the reason I really like the Heifer collection at school is we can pool all the money collected to purchase something larger for a needy family than we would on our own.

We all have so much and so many families in other countries are struggling to even meet their basic need for food and water. Children are even dying to lack of proper nutrition.

We could supply a goat for milk or other animals for food. We might be able to purchase a couple of items depending on the amount collected.

I know the teachers really have enjoyed the collection in the past since we are helping those in need. The gift will last well beyond the holiday season. The children are also learning a good life lesson in how it is better to give than to receive.



GIVE A GIFT

OF HOPE



This year we will be collecting donations until **Wednesday, December 16th**.

Make your checks out to Montessori Pathways School.

We will total all the money received and order a selection of animals. We are asking for the money by Wednesday, December 16th in order for the teachers to be able to discuss the animals given to help others with the children in class.

A note will be sent home explaining what was ordered, so that you may have a conversation with your child. The children will benefit by learning about simpler lifestyles and how basic needs are met in other places. For more info go to www.heifer.org

Thank You for your Heifer International Donation!

During the holiday season, our school participated in Heifer International's Passing on the Gift Program. Heifer International is a charitable organization that provides gifts of livestock and training needed to care for the livestock to help families throughout the world improve their nutrition and generate modest income in sustainable ways.

Together with the children, with the money that has been collected this year, we have purchased:

- One llama and one sheep. The wool can be made into yarn, fabric and clothing. These items can be used by the people or sold. The money can be used for food, medicine, schooling for children and so much more.
- One goat. These animals are bred for specific climate into which they are placed and are ready to produce gallons of rich, nutritious, life giving milk.
- Trio of rabbits. Rabbits are easy to care for, require only simple foods and produce manure that can be applied to gardens without composting. Plus, rabbits can have up to six litters per year.
- Two flock of chicks, two flocks of ducks and geese. These animals will provide eggs to eat, to sell at the market for income, or to pass on the gift to others in need.
- Honeybees. The beehives require limited space, are low cost maintenance and supplement the family income through the sale of honey and beeswax.
- Pig. They can thrive on a family's extra food scraps and garden by-products. Pigs provide up to 16 piglets a year and a steady supply of organic manure to fertilize their crops in a sustainable way.
- Tree seeding. The trees provide the necessities and the savings on fodder or firewood, or the sale of fruit and nuts.

We have decided to get the greatest variety and send animals to every continent that we could. We want to help people all over the world. We will continue to refer to our gifts throughout our studies of animals and their place in the interconnected web of life

From the generous donations of many families and staff members at Montessori Pathways School, we collected \$685.00 to benefit countless families around the world. The Montessori Pathways Staff would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the families who participated in this worthy cause.