

WANTED

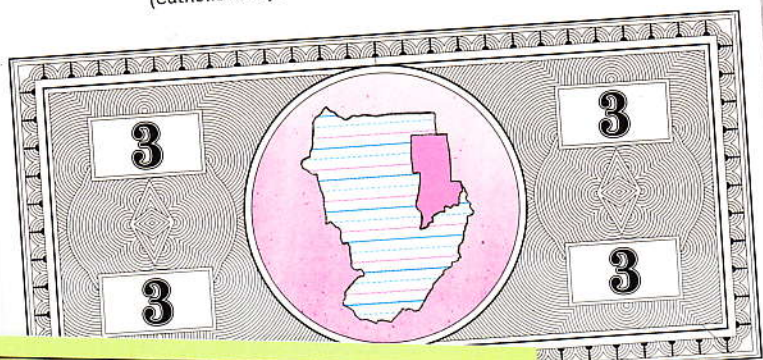
ROUNDUP

THE GIFT OF GIVING

This holiday season, there's no better way to spread the joy than to give to charity in someone's honor. Here are 14 ideas, from \$3 to \$39,000.

BY KATE ROCKWOOD

\$3 for a student workbook in Darfur
(Catholic Relief Services, crs.org)

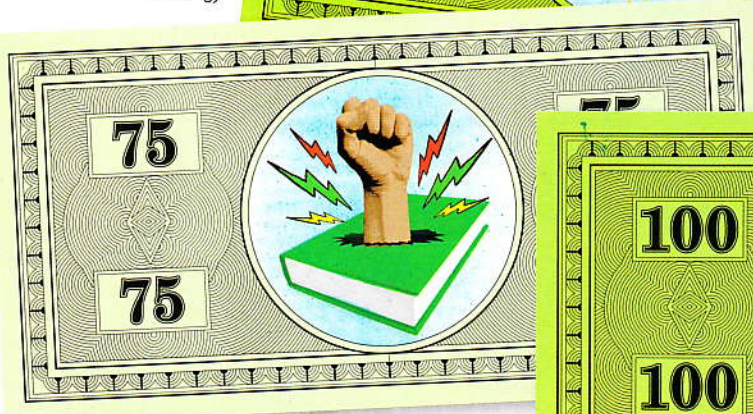
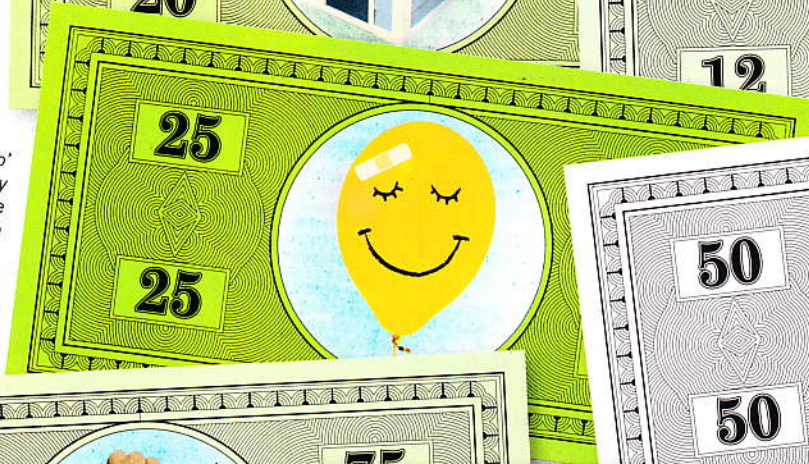


\$12 for 20 pounds of multipurpose soap (Oxfam, oxfamamerica.org)

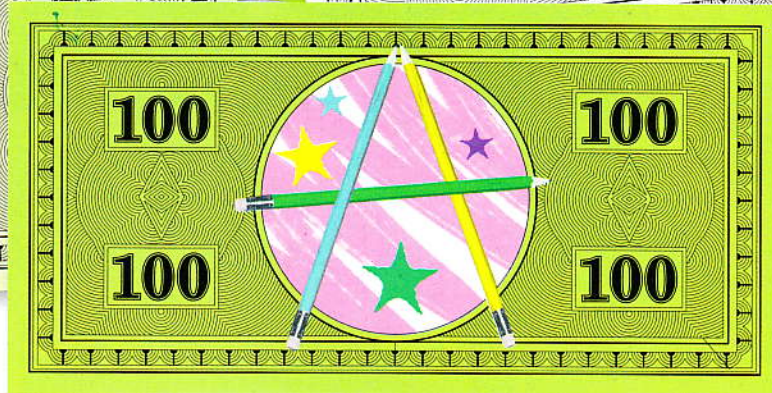
\$20 for supplies for a disaster/rescue mobile unit for needy animals (ASPCA, aspca.org)



\$25 for a "No Mo' Chemo" Party to celebrate completion of one young patient's chemotherapy (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org)



\$75 for 200 dictionaries for students in Africa (Books for Africa, booksforafrica.org)



\$50 for 50 trees to be planted in Brazil's Atlantic Forest (The Nature Conservancy, nature.org)

\$100 for one month of art supplies for a preschool for Chinese orphans (Half the Sky, halftthesky.org)



A new Hermès scarf; the Quadrige II (\$375, hermes.com) is so punchy.
—MIRIAM LAHAGE, GENERAL MANAGER, EBAY FASHION



A \$25 gift card to Best Buy. I'd like to get a DVD or maybe a couple of CDs, but I'd like to pick them out myself. Also, I want to get my ears pierced because I want a change in my look for 2011. The person giving the gift wouldn't necessarily have to physically pierce my ears themselves.
—ANDREW MASON, CEO, GROUPON

WANTED



UPGRADE

TIME TRAVELER

The digital clock that doesn't look anything like one

/// Hate watching time tick away on plasticky digital clocks? The furniture company BDDW may have just the fix: the Nixie desk clock, a hand-welded bronze behemoth of a time-teller, fitted with numerical displays that resemble vacuum tubes. Nixie tubes "are like the original digital display," says BDDW founder and designer Tyler Hays. "Some of our tubes are old, some are new reproductions, because there are still things that use them, like military equipment."

Inspired by machine-age aesthetics and the grain of raw wood and metal, Hays and his team of Philadelphia-based craftspeople have been busy creating digital clocks that are anything but disposable. Despite the retro exteriors, the chip-controlled guts inside are thoroughly modern. Each clock is made by hand, and the company makes just two to three units at a time. Today, BDDW offers three models: desk clock (pictured, \$2,500), wall clock (\$3,700), and grandfa-

ther clock (from \$12,400), in your choice of blackened, silvered, or natural bronze. (The grandfather and wall clocks also come in white oak, osage orange, claro walnut, and American holly.)

"Each case is guaranteed for 20,000 years," boasts Hays. "This is for a customer who wants something that's overbuilt." There is, however, one caveat: "You have to replace the bulbs—they only last a couple of years—so it's a bit of a masochistic thing." bddw.com —TIM MCKEOUGH

MEMENTO

PAPER CHASE

Our intrepid correspondent falls in love in Rome, and seals the deal in New York.

/// Late one night, roaming Rome near the Trevi Fountain, I happened upon a little shop that stopped me in my tracks. Its windows full of stationery in glorious color combos—violet and persimmon, navy and marigold—Campo Marzio glowed like a jewel box. I reached for my wallet, but the store was closed.

Back in New York, I did a web search. Good news! This fall, Campo Marzio, which started in 1933 as a source for finely crafted pens, opened its first U.S. outpost, a store-within-a-store at Kate's Paperie in Manhattan. The luscious leather goods and stylish laptop bags that wowed me that Roman night are a subway ride—or a click (katespaperie.com)—away. They are affordable too: Leather portfolios start at \$25—not much to pay for a thing of beauty and memories of Italy.

—LINDA TISCHLER



A Maserati Quattroporte (\$119,750, maserati.us). I can't fit my three kids in my Porsche 911 or the Panamera.
—TARYN ROSE, SHOE DESIGNER



Time with the family, ideally strapped onto a snowboard. And let me be clear, not all six of us will be on the same snowboard. We've been going to Whistler, in Canada, since 1997, so my hope is that the holidays find my wife and kids and I up in Whistler. (one-day lift ticket: \$91, whistlerblackcomb.com) —JASON KILMER, CEO, HULU

WANTED



FOR SHOW

Folklore has it that yard-dwelling gnomes are actually helpful, nocturnal gardeners. Spruce up greenery with West Elm's **Modern Gnomes**. Unlike the original figurines of mid-1800s Germany, these have been recast in gleaming white porcelain, offering a swanky take on the bearded man. (\$19 each, westelm.com)

CURATED

JAM SESSION...

Nothing is both so on trend and old-fashioned as homemade preserves. Here's what you need to get cooking.

---> Jam technology hasn't evolved much since your great-grandma's days. Still, that doesn't mean new designs of those old tools wouldn't leave her envious. (1) **MAUVIEL's preserving pan** (\$230, mauvielusa.com) is case in point. The Normandy, France-based company has been casting kitchenware since 1830, and its broad copper pan conducts heat evenly to keep your berries from burning. The interchangeable blades and strainers on (2) **OXO's food mill** (\$50, oxo.com) give fruit a refined, hand-pureed texture that a Cuisinart can't approach. Canning can be an unwieldy business, but (3) **RSVP INTERNATIONAL's wide-mouth funnel** (\$14, amazon.com) perches neatly atop jars and (4) **RÖSLE's stainless-steel ladle** (\$37, rosleusa.com) has a sleek, round pouring rim that prevents jam spillage. (5) **FOX RUN's jar lifters** (\$8, acehardware.com) pluck the sealed jars from boiling water without looking like an eyesore in the kitchen. And for showing off the fruits of your labor? We suggest (6) **WECK's Deco and Mold jars** (\$14 for six, weckcanning.com), beloved by jam geeks for their minimal look and foolproof rubber gasket, or Italian-made (7) **BORMIOLI ROCCO's Quattro Stagioni jars** (\$2.50, surlatable.com) with traditional twist-on lids. —MARGARET RHODES



WANTED

LISTEN UP

Record player, meet the iPod shuffle. For the vinyl loyalist constantly on the move, the **Playbutton** may be the perfect solution. The customized button doubles as an LP, with discreet play buttons on the back and a lone jack for headphones—simply pin to your lapel and go. (\$25, playbutton.co)



upon his experience designing the Jambox speaker when sketching the phone's audio mechanics.

4. SCREEN

Instead of being glued on, as is the norm, the +Yves Béhar's crystal sapphire lens slips into the casing, allowing for a narrower phone profile and more secure screen. Like high-end camera lenses, the crystal is coated in a patented, resilient film that allows for an ultraclear display, even in sunlight.

5. ANTENNA

The ceramic antenna's radiation pattern is printed on with metallic silver paste. By choosing ceramic—rather than pure metal—engineers can make the antenna slimmer. That reduces the proximity of nearby metallic components and decreases distortion (a lesson learned from the iPhone 4, when its metallic outer frame wreaked havoc on its reception). The team avoided similar problems with the phone's metallic stripes and speakers by creating an overmolded internal chassis with metal-screw inserts supported by engineering-grade plastic. The solution preserves Béhar's design while still optimizing antenna reception.

6. KEYPAD

Instead of a single piece of plastic substrate, which relies on distortion to trigger the right number, the phone's keypad comprises wholly independent buttons, which ups its ease of use. The buttons run edge to edge, maximizing space, while navigation and scrolling keys sport distinct textures, letting users differentiate them by touch.

DECONSTRUCTED

LUXURY CALLING

What if your phone could live forever? Yves Béhar and Aesir answer the call. (\$8,100 required.)

BY JULIE TARASKA

In these days of ever-smarter smartphones, the debut mobile from Danish design firm Aesir is notable for the features it lacks: a camera, an Internet connection, built-in obsolescence. "Instead of more, we proposed better and longer lasting," says designer Yves Béhar. "It became a way to answer questions like, Why do I need a new phone each year? And why does it have to be complicated?" For answers, Aesir

founder Thomas Møller Jensen spent two-plus years gathering an army of materials specialists, engineers, and craftspeople. The result, the +Yves Béhar, has exceptionally clear audio and parts that are fully replaceable ad infinitum. "We want the phone to be as interesting and relevant in 10 years' time as it is today," says Jensen. We peeked at the features underlying the phone's 6,000-euro price. aesir-copenhagen.com

1. SCREWS

French and Swiss craftspeople who specialize in luxury watches make all of the phone's gold and steel metalwork, using microtools and extensive hand assembly. Miniature metal screws, which are more durable than customary plastic, seal the handset and keys, yet allow technicians to access the phone's innards for later upgrades and repairs.

2. BODY

"Ceramic is used in high-end mobile phones, usually just at the ear pillow," Jensen says. "It's sturdy, light, and scratchproof." But that makes it pricey. The +Yves Béhar opts for a full

ceramic handset to increase durability and support longevity. A French company that specializes in polishing watch bracelets—and which invented machinery that exactly mimics the movement of two hands—polishes the phone's metal exterior.

3. EARPHONE

To coax the highest-quality sound out of the phone, considerations ranged from ringtones (Danish-Vietnamese musician Chris Minh Doky composed a bespoke series in the optimal key) to the shape of the phone's speaker holes (they tried three shapes before settling on round). Béhar drew