

Missions Gift Catalog FAQ's

If you have a question about the Missions Gift Catalog that is not addressed here, e-mail us at info@vesselsofmercy.org, or call 1-804-740-4575.

Please note that your donations go directly to their stated use, unless an item has already been fully funded or the minimum number of shares (where applicable) has not been purchased. In such cases, funds will be allocated to areas of similar need. Also, a portion of each animal gift you order will provide training in animal husbandry, farming, and other critical areas of assistance.

How will my gift be delivered to the recipient in the field?

Gift items are selected based on project goals submitted by our offices around the world. Many of the items in the catalog are part of ongoing programs, so gifts are distributed or services carried out on a continual basis throughout the year.

Can I change the description of a gift (i.e. specify a certain country if several are listed)?

Gifts have been selected for the Missions Gift Catalog based on the needs and goals of our field projects. We aren't able to change the description of a gift or designate a more specific location.

What happens if more gifts are purchased than are needed in the field?

If the total amount received for a particular item exceeds funding needs for that project, your gift will provide similar assistance to people in different communities or will be used to meet additional needs in that same project. For example, if more “sewing machines” are purchased than needed in the course of a year, additional funding will meet other needs of girls and women in other programs, including things such training, education, counseling services, etc.

What is included in the price of a gift?

Gift amounts include the actual cost of the program or item and administrative expense associated with purchasing and/or delivering an item or carrying out the service. It reflects the total amount needed to make that specific activity happen, whether it's shipping and distributing pharmaceuticals, or building a home for an orphan in Africa.

Why do some prices change from year to year?

Gift amounts can vary from year to year due to differing costs in the countries that are requesting the items due to changing economies within those countries, etc.

How quickly will my gift card(s) be sent?

Gift cards are sent by first class mail within 7-10 business days of receiving your order. You should receive your gift cards within 7 to 10 days of your order.

Due to high mail volumes during the holidays, we cannot guarantee the US Postal Service will deliver cards sent via first class mail by December 25. However, we recommend placing orders no later than December 10th for the best chance of delivery by December 24th.

Will I receive a receipt for my gift, and is my gift tax-deductible?

Yes, you will be mailed a receipt for your gift to Vessels of Mercy International. Your gifts are tax deductible, excluding the amount for shipping and handling charges, if applicable.

What happens if not enough shares are purchased to cover the cost of an item?

If not enough shares are given to cover the full cost of an item through the Missions Gift Catalog, shares will be pooled with other funding sources from Vessels of Mercy International to meet the goals of that project.

Can I give shares towards items that are not listed with share amounts?

Through the Missions Gift Catalog Web site, we are unable to process gifts for amounts different than what is listed in the catalog. However, if you would like to make a donation towards a specific gift, you can do so by calling 1-804-740-4575.

Can I receive a photo or report on my gift after it has been delivered?

Due to the prohibitive costs and administration required to report on each individual gift, we cannot provide photos and stories on gifts.

Can I have gift cards mailed directly to someone else on my behalf? You can order gift cards that will be sent directly to you by sending your order in the mail or by phone at 1-804-740-4575. If you would like to have cards shipped directly to someone else, and/or if you would like your gift cards to be personalized, you can place your order on our Web site, www.vesselsofmercy.org.

Can I have gift cards shipped outside of the United States? Unfortunately, we can only ship to addresses within the United States. You can have the gift cards shipped to yourself and forward them in order to honor someone outside of the US.