



# Community Concerns

## Tips For Tight Times

(NAPSA)—In today’s uncertain economy, it can be a challenge to find ways to “give back” to the community. Even with the best of intentions, the roller-coaster financial news of the day can make charitable giving seem like an extravagance.

There are still ways, however, to make a difference:

- One way to support charitable causes—without spending any money directly—is through volunteering. It can be something as simple as helping out at the library, volunteering at a soup kitchen or spending a few hours a week at an animal shelter. The only cost is the time spent volunteering—and the benefit is a stronger community and a difference made in each life touched. The Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance, available at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org), provides information on recognized charities.

- Sometimes, simply doing business with companies that embrace a culture of “giving back” is a great way to be sure those companies thrive—and thus continue their philanthropic ways. Subaru of America, for example, has recently donated eight of the company’s all-wheel drive Forester models to the American Red Cross. Subaru is also helping to bridge the gap between charitable needs and



**One easy way to give back is to support companies that give to local charities.**

donations this year with an innovative “Share the Love” campaign. During the campaign, anyone who buys or leases a new Subaru vehicle can select one of five charities to receive a \$250 donation from the car company. More information on the program can be found at [www.subaru.com](http://www.subaru.com).

- There is an old saying, “charity begins at home,” and what better way to honor that sentiment than by involving children in charitable giving at an early age? Set aside some time to collect outgrown clothing and toys that are no longer used and bring them to a shelter or a second-hand store in which the profits support charity. Make a game of it—and teach the beauty of giving—by requesting that children donate one old toy for each new toy received as a holiday gift.