

HOLIDAY Traditions

Gifts That Celebrate The True Spirit Of The Season

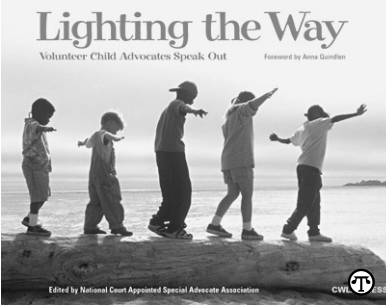
(NAPSA)—This year, fewer people are getting so caught up in the frenzy of the holiday season that they forget to reflect on the true meaning of this magical season...and that is to celebrate peace and compassion and to find joy in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

This year, many have made special contributions to worthy organizations such as the Red Cross and the New York Firefighters Fund. But as the holidays approach, people still want to do more to give back, especially when thousands of charities face greater needs due to the uncertain economy. What many are doing instead of buying a traditional gift is making a donation to a favorite charity in the name of a friend or a loved one. This feel-good gift will brighten the lives of those less fortunate, and allow you to complete your holiday shopping in a quick, but meaningful way.

Among the nonprofit organizations that offer season-specific gifts and other items are:

- **CASA Book: *Lighting the Way***—The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA) is a nonprofit organization of community volunteers who are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of the millions of children in America who are unable to live safely at home due to parental abuse and neglect. They help these children find safe, caring, permanent homes.

CASA's emotionally moving



GIVING BACK—Season-specific gifts from non-profit organizations help many.

book, *Lighting the Way*, features real-life stories by volunteers who share the joys and heartaches of helping to change the lives of children—and makes an ideal holiday gift for that special someone on your list. CASA supporters who make a donation of \$25 or more before December 31, 2001, receive a special copy of the book in time for the holidays. To donate, visit www.nationalcasa.org or call 1-800-414-CASA.

- **YMCA Holiday Cards**—In recognition of its 150th anniversary helping children and families to lead better and healthier lives, children enrolled in YMCA Child Care programs have designed a commemorative set of holiday cards. All proceeds from the card sales benefit YMCA initiatives. The cards are colorful with unique designs and come in a box set that contains 12 cards and envelopes for \$10. To order, visit www.ymca.net or call 877-487-1894.