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Outpost answers to the needs of the community during the holiday season

Non-profit organizations are feeling the financial fallout from the recession more than ever. Giving is down, while needs continue to rise. Enter Outpost Natural Foods Co-op. For thirteen years, Outpost has provided holiday shoppers with alternatives to the commercial retail frenzy by offering charitable gift giving options to honor family, friends or simply just to provide an organization with a needed donation, in lieu of more traditional gifts.

Tenth Annual Buy A Bag for the Hungry, to benefit Hunger Task Force November 1 through December 31, at all Outpost locations

- Shoppers purchase \$40 worth of natural and organic foods for only \$20
- In 2008, Outpost shoppers donated over \$40,000 in food!
- "Hunger Task Force is ever thankful for the Outpost owners who consistently show their kindness at the holidays through the Buy a Bag holiday food drive. With so many of our neighbors in need of basic foods, the generous gifts of food offered by this food drive assure that others are fed. Most of all, they show that people care, and during these tough times caring for others is especially important," said Sherrie Tussler, executive director for Hunger Task Force.

Fourth Annual Alternative Gift Fair, to benefit local non-profits

Sunday, December 6, 1 – 5 pm, Lakefront Brewery, 1872 N. Commerce St., Milwaukee

- Offers holiday shoppers a choice of gifts to honor family and friends while supporting charities and other local non-profit organizations in a festive atmosphere
- Over \$2,300 in donations was raised in 2008!
- For the second year, the Our Milwaukee Buy Local Fair will partner alongside within the same venue
- "People have told us they love the opportunity to visit with so many non-profits all at one time and in one space," said Malcolm McDowell Woods, Exchange editor. "The fair is a great alternative to the mall scene and a wonderful way to help build our community with your holiday shopping."

Thirteenth Annual Kids Winter Clothing Drive

November 1 through February 28, at all Outpost locations

- Outpost collects new or gently worn and laundered warm winter outerwear for children aged 6 - 16
- Clothing distributed to area schools and organizations in need
- For the second year, Laacke & Joys will partner alongside Outpost for the month of December with collection boxes at select store locations
- "What is endearing about this clothing drive is that every year, anonymous donors knit or crochet the most beautiful hats, scarves and mittens which they wrap in tissue paper and tie with ribbon," said Margaret Mittelstadt, director of communications for Outpost.

Serving the greater Milwaukee area since 1970, Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative operates three successful locations at 100 East Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, 7000 West State Street, Wauwatosa, and 2826 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee. Co-owned by nearly 14,000 individuals from Southeastern Wisconsin, it employs nearly 300 people, as well as publishes a free monthly food and wellness magazine (The Exchange). Outpost is the fourth largest cooperatively owned natural food grocer in the country by sales volume. (www.outpostnaturalfoods.coop)