



Gifts That *Give Back*

Support charities with presents that make both the giver and the receiver feel great **BY SHERI RADFORD**

- 1 Raise your hand if you want to show pride for the “True North Strong and Free.” This year marks the 7th edition of the iconic Olympic Red Mittens from Hudson’s Bay (page 19). Thirty percent of sales go to the Canadian Olympic Foundation, which raises funds for current and future high-level athletes. Go Canada go!
- 2 Even a Grinch with a heart two sizes too small can’t help falling in love with The Elton John Music is Love for Laliq collection. The pop superstar joined forces with the planet’s biggest name in crystal to create several small sculptures, including a red heart, limited to 499 pieces worldwide, and a clear heart, limited to 999. A portion of each sale goes to the Elton John AIDS Foundation. Available at Atkinson’s (page 18).
- 3 Form plus function equals Alessi. The Italian design house has launched nine new (PRODUCT)RED items, including these limited-edition Anna G. and Alessandro M. corkscrews. A portion of the purchase price goes to (RED), the charity started by Irish rockers U2 to raise money and awareness about AIDS, as well as The Global Fund to Fight AIDS. Available at Design House (page 23) and online at www.alessi.com/red.
- 4 Peepers look perkier in spectacular new specs from Claudia Alan. She partnered with Canadian style icon Susie Wall to create C4: Canadian Creative Collaborative for Charity, a line of luxury eyewear featuring three sunglasses and four readers. Partial proceeds go to the Cause We Care Foundation, a Vancouver-based charity that helps single mothers and their children. Buy online at www.claudiaalan.com/c4.
- 5 Everyone loves a baby beluga in the deep blue sea. Though a real whale isn’t likely to fit in the typical family’s bathtub, a stuffed one is small enough for any home. Each Aquadopy Kit from the Vancouver Aquarium (page 55) contains a plush beluga, certificate of adoption, fact booklet and collector card. Profits help fund the aquarium’s conservation, research and education programs.
- 6 Pampered pooches and pups look doggone dashing in a new collar or leash from Found My Animal, which creates accessories for adopted animals. With the goal of raising awareness surrounding pet adoption, the company supports a variety of animal-rescue organizations. Available at Barking Babies (page 24) and online at www.foundmyanimal.com.
- 7 Any dapper dude would appreciate the Modern Gent’s Shaving Kit from The Body Shop (page 16). The shaving cream, razor relief and shaving brush are packed inside a quaint keepsake tin. For each kit sold, the ethically minded store donates one day of safe water to a family in Ethiopia.
- 8 Diamonds may be a girl’s best friend, but mala beads are better for the soul. Vancouver-based company Mala Collective has an ever-expanding team in Bali, Indonesia, that hand-makes mala necklaces and bracelets from rudraksha beads and gemstones—both believed to have healing powers—and receives fair-trade wages and profit sharing in return. Partial profits go to Bumi Sehat, a non-profit birthing and wellness centre in Bali. Bonus: each mala is blessed by a high priest before leaving the island. Buy online at www.malacollective.com.



- 9** Show your true stripes with Tolmie, the 11th annual Heritage Charity Bear from Hudson's Bay (page 19). The stuffed animal pays tribute to Dr. William Tolmie, the celebrated physician and adventurer who developed the first scientific agricultural operation in the Pacific Northwest. Net proceeds go to the HBC Foundation's Strength in Stripes program. Don't delay: only 12,500 bears are available, and they always prove to be a popular holiday gift.
- 10** There's a world of good inside every little Charity Pot. The essential oils, natural butters and aloe in this hand and body lotion make skin feel amazing, and Lush (page 18) donates 100 percent of the purchase price to grassroots organizations in the fields of environmental conservation, animal welfare and human rights—in eight years, more than \$10 million to 850 charities in 42 countries.
- 11** Mona Sultan may live in Vancouver now, but she's never forgotten her native Syria. The escalating humanitarian crisis there compelled her to try to help. All proceeds from her new capsule collection of necklaces are going to the Karam Foundation's Innovate to Educate campaign, which aims to get Syrian children back in school. Sultan repurposed bits and pieces from her signature scarf line to create these one-of-a-kind statement necklaces, available at the H Project shop
- 12** Perfect for any sports fan on your list, the Hockey Fights Cancer Heated Throw is made of luxuriously soft micro-plush fabric. It has three heat settings, ideal for chilly evenings at home watching the game. For each one sold, Sunbeam donates \$5 to organizations dedicating to beating, pummeling and knocking out cancer. The best part? No one gets sent to the penalty box for this hockey fight. Available at Canadian Tire (page 23) and online at www.sunbeam.ca.
- 13** This year, Christmas can smell like your favourite essential oil, thanks to the AromaArt ultrasonic nebulizer from Saje Natural Wellness (page 18). Created in collaboration with Vancouver-based artist Dana Mooney, this limited-edition nebulizer uses aromatherapy to lift spirits while simultaneously purifying and humidifying the air. Also raising spirits: the fact that sales support Arts Umbrella, a not-for-profit arts education centre for young people.
- 14** Look good, feel good and do good, at the same time: cute and cozy Vionic slippers were designed by a podiatrist to prevent pain in feet, legs and lower backs. Partial profits go to the Weil Foundation, which supports training and research at The Center for Integrative Medi-
- 15** cine in Arizona. Available at The Right Shoe (page 22).
- 16** Want to warm your neck and your heart, all at once? Purchase one of three new limited-edition Scarves for Water from the Obakki Foundation. After all 500 of a specific design are sold, it is retired and a clean-water well is built in a South Sudanese village: the Sand (taupe) builds a well in Mayike, Cobalt (blue) builds one in Nyaga, and Maize (gold) provides a well in Makernhom. For the maximum in heart-warming benefits, register for updates on the specific village you're supported, and send photos and video messages to the village's inhabitants. Buy online at www.obakki.com.
- 17** Who-who-who's the sweetest little bird around? The Shop for Hope collection includes adorable stuffed owls, cute candles, reusable shopping totes, coffee mugs and pillows. Net proceeds go to the violence-prevention programs at the Canadian Women's Foundation. At Winners (page 19).
- 17** When it comes to combining fashion and philanthropy, TOMS can't be topped. For each fun-but-functional bag sold, the company donates a safe-birth kit to a mom-in-need in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Haiti or India. The kit includes birthing essentials such as a surgical blade, cord clamp, clean surface, gauze, gloves and soap. Available at Red Sky (page 22). 