



Global Village Work Team Policy on Gift Giving/Donations/Sponsorship

Basic Policy

The Global Village department discourages GV teams and individual team members from giving personal gifts while engaged in or as a result of being engaged in a GV work team. Team members being there working is a gift in itself.

Because they travel the world GV teams encounter diverse cultures that view the giving of gifts in decisively different ways. Many cultures feel that to receive a gift means that a gift must be given in return. Most times, the person or family to whom a gift is given is not in a position to reciprocate. This results in disappointment and unhappiness by the very people the team is intending to make happy by giving them a gift.

Because it may set precedence, gift giving can have a negative impact on the host affiliate, HFH in general, other volunteers that build with the affiliate, the GV program and future GV teams. To avoid potential problems, embarrassment, hurt feelings and unhappiness, it is best that gifts not be exchanged between the team or individual team members and: select individual children, the local masons/volunteers, on-site construction supervisor, partner family, host GV coordinator, host affiliate staff, HFH national GV coordinator, HFHI GV coordinator, GV team leader or anyone else.

One Exception

When a team of GV volunteers descends on a worksite a crowd of inquisitive local children will not be far behind. The giving of gifts to individual children is discouraged. However, **team members may feel free to share small items such as balloons, bubbles, bubble gum, pencils, paper, etc. with the children at the worksite.** Use restraint and common sense to avoid hurting anyone's feelings. If you give to one, it is expected that you give to all. Keep in mind that once word spreads the worksite will be inundated with children.

Bringing items to play with at the worksite—soccer ball, Frisbee, etc.—is permissible, as long as the items are taken home every evening.

Other than small items such as those listed above, **gifts should not be given to individual children**, at the worksite or elsewhere. Any gifts for children should be given to the host GV coordinator who, after the team departs, will see that they are appropriately distributed.

Donating Tools and Clothing

GV teams often bring small hand tools to use and then donate them to the affiliate upon departure. Some members do the same with their work clothes. **Tools and clothing the team is planning to donate should be given to the host GV coordinator following the final day of building. They should not be given to the:**

- Construction supervisor
- Affiliate staff
- Partner family
- Local volunteers
- Neighbors at the worksite

Donated tools are retained by the affiliate and used on future builds.

Donated clothing is distributed by the local affiliate to those most in need, through local charities and churches.

Sponsorships

Agreeing to any type of sponsorship while a member of a GV team is highly discouraged. Team members sometimes are approached about the possibility of “sponsoring” children in the host country. They might be the partner family children, children of a host affiliate staff member, of an extended family, or simply a local resident befriended by a team member. Avoid getting involved in sponsoring anyone while a member of a GV team.

Questions about gift giving, donations and sponsorships should be directed to the HFH ECA GV department, gv.europe@habitat.org