



WHAT IS A GIVING PARTY?

A Giving Party is a unique opportunity for your child and his or her friends to come together, have a great time and learn valuable lessons about the power of their actions and the importance of helping others and making the world a better place. Ideally, each child at the party would have their own copy of *The Giving Book* since this book is designed to be customized by the child and become a scrapbook of their hopes and dreams for the world. You can decide whether you'd like to provide each child at the party with a copy of the book or ask each guest's parents to be responsible for obtaining the book.

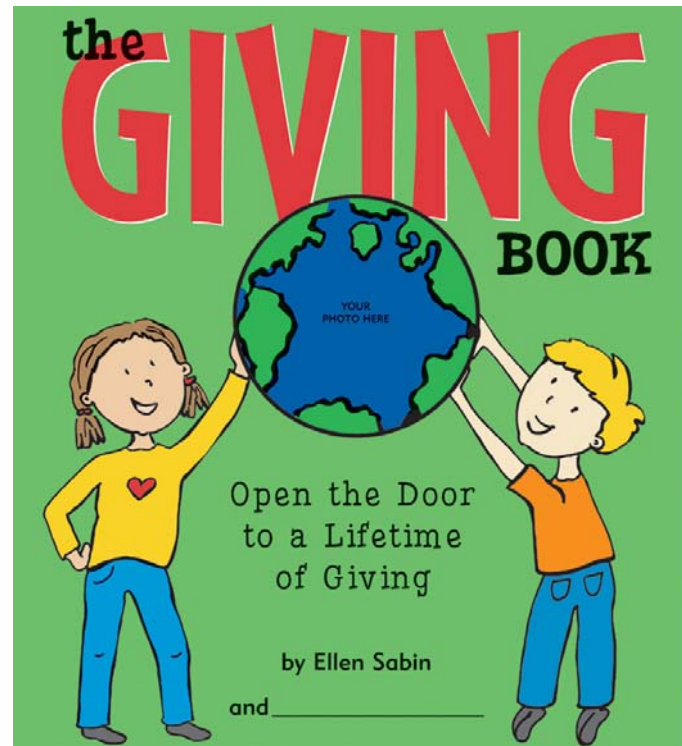
This party guide contains just a few ideas for creating an exciting party that has purpose in its ability to combine fun with a powerful character education experience.

GIVING PARTY OVERVIEW:

The Giving Party, as described in this guide, has seven different activities.

- Personalizing the Book
- Introduction/Setting The Stage
- "So Many Ways to Give" Discussion
- "Gift Certificate" Activity
- "Gift of Happiness" Activity
- "Recycle Rush" Activity
- "Giving Bag" Activity

Of course you may customize the party in a way that best fits your space, timing and the group of children in attendance. You can also refer to the Teacher's Guide available at www.wateringcanpress.com for additional activity possibilities.





Invitations/Guest Prep:

Page five of this PDF is an invitation that you can print out or you can make something similar yourself. We suggest that you have your child fill out the invitations for the guests and then glue them to the front of a 9x12 envelope (available at any office supply store). If you are mailing the invites, you can slip the invitation page inside the envelope for mailing. The envelope will then become a tool for holding the things your guest will bring to the party as part of their preparation. As you can see on the invitation, your guest's prep for the Giving Party will be to talk with their parents about what charities or causes they think are important. Using the computer or clipping from newspapers, the parents can help the child gather some information on those causes that he/she can share with the other guests at the party. Each guest will also need to bring a 3"x5" or 4"x6" picture of him/herself. Make sure the parents know this picture might need to be trimmed to fit in the book.

Decoration Ideas:

The Giving Party doesn't require decorations, but if you want to add more festivity to your event, you can work off the globe theme used on the front of the book and utilize blue and green balloons and streamers. If you want to incorporate the "star" activity outlined on page 49 of *The Giving Book*, you could decorate with large cut-out stars that would later be used to record your guests' dreams and wishes for the world.

Food and Snack Suggestions:

If you want to offer refreshments, here are some ideas. Round "globe" cookies with green and blue icing make a nice accent or you could do a cake with a message about charity or giving written in icing. Part of *The Giving Book's* message is that the world is a big place and we must protect it and care about people who live far away or who are very different from us. Incorporating simple delicacies from foreign cultures is a nice way to use food to compliment the purpose of the party. Be creative and create a menu that is practical and fun.

Activities:

After your guests arrive, you want them to all be seated with their *Giving Book* so they can all see and hear the adult(s) leading the party. They could be seated around a table or on the floor in a living room or family room. If the weather is nice, they could be in a back yard or on a patio. Each child will need room to spread out their book and participate in some arts and crafts projects.

Personalizing the Book:

When you initially give each child their book, explain that it is truly THEIR book and they are encouraged to complete the activities and write in the book as they wish. If you are providing the books for all the children, make sure you complete the "letter" on page 3 of the book by writing in the guest's name and your or your child's name at the bottom. As a group activity,



have each child put their picture in the sleeve on the inside cover of the book. If they have brought a 4x6 picture, they will need to trim it slightly to get the best fit. Have the children write their names on the appropriate line on the first page of the book.

Introduction/Setting the Stage:

You want to tell the guests that this party is going to be a lot of fun and that they will all be learning more about giving and charity. Make sure they know there are exciting activities ahead! As an introduction to the concept of philanthropy, read aloud pages 7-11 of *The Giving Book* and have the children follow along. Depending on the ages of the guests, you could even have them take turns reading. Let discussion flow and encourage them to ask questions.

“So Many Ways to Give” Discussion:

This is the portion of the party where we want the children to realize that everyone has something to give. Start the discussion by having them turn to pages 14 and 15. Have the children take turns sharing ways people have been giving to them and they have been giving to others. Encourage them to write these down in their books if you'd like. Read aloud pages 17 and 23 and then ask the children for more examples of how they could give or help others.

“Giving Certificates”

Now it is time for the kids to use their imagination and think of ways they can help the people in their lives and in their community. On page six of this PDF, you'll see a sheet of “Giving Certificates.” These are gift certificates the children can give to people which represent a promise of something they will do to be nice and give back. It could be helping parents with the chores, visiting with a neighbor, helping do yard work, etc. Have the children complete these certificates and encourage them to present each one to the intended recipient in the days following the party as a concrete first step to being more philanthropic.

“The Gift of Happiness”

This activity will require a little research on your part. You'll need to find a group in your area that could use a little happiness and sunshine – it could be a children's hospital where the sick kids need cheering up, it could be a nursing home with residents that enjoy receiving pick-me ups. Essentially, the children at your party are going to make special handmade cards to share some joy with someone they don't know. Read the poem on Page 25 aloud and see if your guests can guess the special “gift.” Tell the guests about the group or individuals you have chosen for this project and explain to them why these people need a little happiness and cheer. Then provide them construction paper, crayons, markers, or other craft supplies to create cards. Have envelopes and stamps on hand so they can address the cards and get a feeling of completion in knowing their “gift of happiness” is on its way.



"Recycle Rush" Activity

Review page 32 with the children and explain to them how important it is to take care of the environment by not littering, recycling and taking care of the earth. The "Recycle Rush" activity is like an Easter Egg hunt, but the children aren't looking for eggs, they are looking for trash that you have hidden around the yard – plastic bottles, cans, etc. You will, of course, want to rinse out the "trash" items before hiding them. The twist is that, in each item, there will be some money (a quarter or two is plenty). Explain to the children that this money will be used to help people and groups that need our support. To prevent competition, set a maximum number of items for each child, like 4 or 5. When they have found all their allotted items, collected the money from them and deposited the trash in the designated bin or bag, they can then help the other guests find their items. This way, all the guests have the same amount of money to start saving for charity.

"The Giving Bag" Activity

Now that the children have some coins to start their savings for charity (and they've run off some of their energy), it is time for an arts and crafts project to create their own "Giving Bag." You can use pages 36 and 37 of the book to present this concept. When explaining the concept of donating money to charity, have the guests go around and share the causes or organizations they discussed with their family. They can also share any information they brought in their envelope on these charities. You can use whatever container you want with the children – a cloth bag, a box, a jar. Give each child their own container and then let them customize it with decoration and their name. Depending on the age of the children, there are endless options for this project – glue, glitter, buttons, markers, paint. Choose a selection of items that let the children be creative and make their "Giving Bag" special.

When the project is complete, explain to the children that THEY get to decide to whom or what group they want to donate their money. Use pages 38 and 39 to encourage them to continue saving money in their "Giving Bag" to help others. Point out page 40 and remind them they'll need to write a letter when they do decide to send in their donation and get their parents help in finding the information needed to make the contribution.

Make sure that all the guests leave with their book, their envelope, their "Giving Certificates," and their "Giving Bag."

**More activity ideas are available at www.wateringcanpress.com.
We also offer discounts on purchases of 10 books or more through our site.**





_____ would like to invite you to a very special party where we'll have lots of fun while we learn how we can help other people and make the world a better place!!

WHEN:

WHERE:

Make sure you or your parents call us at _____ to let us know you'll be attending our Giving Party!!

WHAT TO BRING!!!

Write your name on your envelope and feel free to color this invitation!! One of the fun things we are going to do at the party is talk about how we can help people by giving money to charity. Talk to your family about charity and think of one or two causes that you think are really important. Let a grown-up help you collect information on the organizations or causes you have chosen and put this information in this envelope. Make sure you also put a picture of yourself in your envelope that is either 3"x5" or 4"x6".

Remember to bring this envelope and everything you put in it to the party!!



GIVING CERTIFICATE



_____ has a very special gift for _____.

I enjoy doing nice things for others, and this certificate is to tell you that I want to do something for you!

This certificate can be redeemed for:



GIVING CERTIFICATE



_____ has a very special gift for _____.

I enjoy doing nice things for others, and this certificate is to tell you that I want to do something for you!

This certificate can be redeemed for:



GIVING CERTIFICATE



_____ has a very special gift for _____.

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