

Home-made gifts help fill Christmas stockings

Ideas range from decorated shirts to kahlua — from his and hers pajamas to dough-braid baskets.

By Shelley Kehm
Emerald Contributor

How am I going to afford presents for my relatives, all 19 of them, when I can barely afford a cup of coffee for myself?"

With Christmas jingling in the air again, many students are upset with their money situation; their empty pockets. Tempting shopping trips become letdowns with too many

"his" and "her" pajamas.

•A special ceramic dough simply made of flour, water and salt can be molded into almost anything and then cooked to create baskets, dough-braids and Christmas ornaments that moms will love.

•Wicker baskets filled with bath soaps and oils are great for grandparents.

•Potpourri is great for home-made crafts. It can be sewn into little pillows and placed into drawers to give clothes a plea-

day before Christmas. With cookie cutters shaped like trees and santas, green and red icing and sprinkles, anyone with a sweet tooth is pleased.

•If none of these suggestions

tempt you, a card can always be given at Christmas.

These gifts take only a little time, imagination and money. These suggestions are given to help a student have a truly

merry Christmas, and this way the money he/she receives for Christmas does not have to be reimbursement for the money spent on gifts. After all, it is the thought that counts, isn't it?

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sweaters "just right for dad" but too expensive for a student's budget.

But with some creativity and imagination, home-made gifts can fill the void. These gifts can be clever and useful with little money needed in behalf of a student. Here are ten suggestions to consider:

•Plain sweatshirts can be decorated and designed with anything from shirt glue (available at the bookstore) to felt and yarn. Personal favorites, decals and names can make any plain sweatshirt fun to wear and give.

•Pajamas are fun to personalize, too. Do it yourself with felt or have a local decal store do it for you. Moms and dads love

sant smell, and it can be sewn into hanger cushions to give clothes in the closet a pleasant smell also. Placing potpourri in any glass container also will look and smell great.

•Styrofoam balls decorated with yarn and things of the sort make great ornamental memorandums for the tree.

•Everybody likes home-made kahlua. The recipe is in almost every cookbook, and one batch can take care of five thirsty relatives (and one thirsty cook.)

•Russian tea is another tummy-tickler. In a plain preserves jar topped with a ribbon and bow, anyone will be delighted.

•Of course, the original sugar cookie recipe does wonders the

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