

## Sweet Ways to Help

Lend a hand to a worthy cause this holiday season by giving these delicious presents to everyone on your list.



**Sweet Home's Gingerbread Folk Tin**  
 35% of the proceeds from this set—including 50 gingerbread people and two cookie houses—benefits the Sweet Home Project's education, job training and housing initiatives for the homeless nationwide. [Dancingdeer.com/sweethome](http://Dancingdeer.com/sweethome), \$23.50.

**HELP Comfort Foods** 100% of these proceeds go to support the homeless, American veterans and victims of domestic violence. The gift set will let your friends sample chocolate turtles, caramel-honey almond bars and more. [HelpUSA.org](http://HelpUSA.org), \$55.



**Bake Me a Wish Holiday Freedom Cake**  
 When you send one of these decadent chocolate cakes to a loved one, Bake Me a Wish and Soldier's Angels will ship a free cake to a soldier in a country such as Iraq or Afghanistan. [Bakemeawish.com](http://Bakemeawish.com), \$75.



## PARTY PLANNER

Take the stress out of throwing a bash with this easy prep schedule from Ingrid Hoffmann, host of Food Network's *Simply Delicioso*.

### 5 days before

Select a menu, choosing foods you can make early and freeze. Plan to prepare four dishes—a main dish, two sides and a dessert.

### 4 days before

Stock the bar with wine, beer and ingredients for a creative cocktail (check out [www.familycircle.com/ingrid](http://www.familycircle.com/ingrid) for Ingrid's favorite drinks).

### 3 days before

Start preparing dishes. Pre-cook any

sauces and freeze. Make salad dressing and refrigerate. Create decorations.

### 2 days before

Prepare side dishes and refrigerate. Select CDs or music for a playlist.

### 1 day before

Set the table. Prep veggies. Thaw frozen sauces and marinate meat dishes.

### Party day

Cook meats and bake dessert. Mix salad, put finishing touches on your decorations and enjoy your fiesta!

### GOOD CATCH

Wild Planet albacore tuna has 600% more cancer-fighting omega-3s than other brands (yes, 600%!). Better yet, it doesn't contain any oil or soy fillers, and is very low in mercury. We fell for it hook, line and sinker. At Whole Foods or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), \$4-\$6.



### what a rack!

No more jockeying for oven space to heat up the side dishes: Thanks to Sur La Table's stainless steel three-tier rack, you can heat your casserole, veggie dish and dinner rolls at the same time. It assembles in seconds and folds flat to store. At [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com), \$22.

**call for cookies** Do you have a special cookie recipe that leaves family and friends begging for more? E-mail original recipes to [foodeditor@familycircle.com](mailto:foodeditor@familycircle.com) and we may print your recipe in an upcoming issue.