

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, \$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, \$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, \$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 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, \$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, \$22.

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