

# Gifts from the Heart Provide Dual Value

“Heart Gifts” may be one of Helen Steiner Rice’s most treasured poems.\* Likewise, **Gifts from the Heart** are beautiful, simple expressions of friendship and recognition.

Adult Sunday School classes are prime locations for every church to make “In Honor” and “In Memory” cards available. Assign a responsible person to explain to the class how to use the cards and the cards’ dual value of honoring loved ones while helping provide missionaries with much-needed health care. (The person should also to maintain a good supply of cards). The person should follow up the first Sunday of each quarter with a reminder about the cards.

The **Gifts from the Heart** persons could prepare ahead and distribute “In Honor” cards to all class members, asking them to make a donation to Missionary Health Care through Gifts from the Heart in the Sunday School class teachers’ names, presenting the cards to the teacher on Teacher Appreciation Day.

One adult Sunday School class chose to use **Gifts from the Heart** in lieu of flowers when a member was hospitalized or died. Becoming familiar with the use of **Gifts from the Heart**, individuals responded using the cards to honor birthdays, anniversaries, ordinations, baptisms, new grandparents, second marriages, retirement, job promotions, or congratulations on a job well done.

In another church on a Sunday evening, “In Honor” cards were distributed to everyone. The purpose of the cards was explained, and everyone was asked to write a note in their card to someone in the service, affirming their personal ministry (usher, nursery worker, musician, sound technician, custodian, greeter, faithful attender, etc.) and write the recipient’s name on the envelope. Cards were placed in the offering plates, along with donations. (Instead of asking donors to mail checks to Global Treasury Services, all donations were collected and sent by the local treasurer.) Cards were distributed to recipients at the close of the service.

Keep the **Gifts from the Heart** display well-supplied and highly visible—and be sure everyone knows its dual purpose. The donor determines the contribution, making it useful for all.

\* If you are not familiar with the poem, look it up in one of several of Rice’s poetry books in the library.

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