

# 10 Ways to Capture the Spirit of the Holidays within Your Budget

The holiday season is coming. Soon you'll be inundated with messages to buy now. Buy NOW! Capture the spirit of the season and enjoy the gift-giving tradition without busting your budget with these 10 tips for gifts and events.

*One*

## **BE ARTISTIC**

Instead of pulling out the plastic for another mindless purchase, pull out the glue stick. You'll have fun and the recipient will appreciate your attention to detail. Pinterest abounds with ideas.



*Two*

## **BE MUSICAL**

Inexpensive and thoughtful, sharing music is better than ever. Use apps like nana or Ujam to make and share your own music or create a playlist and invite friends on the musx app.



*Three*

## **WRITE A LOVE LETTER**

This gift will last decades longer than anything you'll find at the mall. Start with original, heartfelt words and you've got the makings of something special.



*Four*

## **WRITE A THANK YOU NOTE**

Break out of the holiday card mold. Send short, hand-written thank you notes. The layout of your note: gratitude for a specific action, how great it made you feel, warm wishes.



*Five*

## **DINE IN STYLE**

Take a friend out for less with sites like [LivingSocial.com](http://LivingSocial.com), [Groupon.com](http://Groupon.com), or [Restaurant.com](http://Restaurant.com). Purchase restaurant gift certificates for a fraction of the cost of face value.



## Six

### **DINE OUTDOORS**

December is great for stargazing. Enjoy warm friendship and fire while Orion observes from overhead. Shish kabobs, s'mores, and hot drinks round out this simple evening.



## Seven

### **WARM HEARTS**

You may call it corny, but the holidays are a time to be blatantly endearing. Giving a friend oranges with a note that says "Orange you glad we're friends" is only acceptable at the holidays. Take advantage.



## Eight

### **WARM STOMACHS**

Throw a sampling of single serving warm drinks into a mug. You'll keep that person warm and thinking of you all season for just a few bucks.



## Nine

### **FEED STOMACHS**

\$10 gets you a share of a goat through Heifer International ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)).

They'll find a family who will enjoy its milk and cheese. You give a gift that keeps on giving . . .



## Ten

### **FEED A SOUL (YOURS)**

Don't let the stress of the holiday season get the best of you. Put yourself first for a few minutes each day with your favorite stress-free activity. You'll appreciate the season even more.

