

# Bridal Basics

## Giving The Gift Of A Charitable Donation

(NAPSA)—More and more, couples now vow to start their lives together by making a difference in the lives of others.

Saying “I do” to a wedding that benefits a charity is easier than you might imagine—and especially timely, as many charities need extra help during a time of economic downturn.

By the time many couples get married, they often don't need an extra toaster but would really appreciate a donation to the charity of their choice. Giving is a great way to start your life together and coming up with a list can provoke some meaningful conversations about values.

Here are five heartwarming ideas you may want to consider:

1. **Feed the hungry.** If you have unopened food and beverages left over from your wedding, donate them to a nearby food bank or soup kitchen.

2. **Share your flowers.** After the wedding, drop off your flowers at a hospital or nursing home so others can enjoy them.

3. **Buy wedding essentials** from companies that donate to charities you support.

4. **Donate your bridesmaid dresses** to an organization that supplies prom dresses to girls who can't afford them.

5. **Register your wedding.** Ask your guests to donate to a charity they identify with you. You can even suggest a Web site through which they can donate—a



**One of the most meaningful wedding gifts is a donation to the favorite charities of the bride and the groom.**

sort of customizable wedding charity registry.

One site that offers a wedding registry service features charity gift cards guests can order. The site lets brides host a personalized Web page—there are a number of themes from which to choose—which can be used to send information, e-mail invitations and updates. The charity gift cards also make great wedding favors.

### Learn More

For more information, visit [www.ccgiftcards.org](http://www.ccgiftcards.org).