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Give a Little Get a Lot: Group Gift Ideas for Teachers from FrumUs

HOPKINTON, MA (November 30, 2009) — Most teachers agree that scented candles and clothing are not ideal holiday gifts, that gift cards are useful, and heartfelt appreciation is priceless. With the National Retail Federation predicting a five percent decrease in spending on gifts for "others" like teachers and babysitters, group gift giving is becoming the most economical solution. Websites like FrumUs.com that eliminate the challenges of communicating and collecting donations make it easy to save time while organizing thoughtful group gift from the class.

"At just \$5 a family most classes can collect \$100 for a nice holiday teacher gift," explained Karen O'Neil, FrumUs founder. "We've taken the hassles out of the collection process and we're the only solution that gives users the flexibility to purchase something locally or online with money collected."

While gift cards are often the most logical gift solution, there are simple ways to add a small twist to make the gift more personal for the teacher and for the children giving it. Following are several teacher gift ideas that are both thoughtful and useful:



<u>Vera Bradley's Clip Zips</u> (\$10) – insert a restaurant gift card in the window where the license can go.



Uncommon Goods Embroidered Luggage Tags (\$12) – insert an Discover gift card and she'll always remember the class when she easily spots her luggage on her next trip.



<u>YourCover Personalized Magazine Covers</u> (\$12.95) – can be created and printed right from your computer. Give it along with a gift card or a subscription to her favorite magazine.



<u>Uncommon Goods Wishing Wall</u> (\$45) – have the kids and parents all write personal notes and wishes to teacher and roll them up with dollar bills into the wishing wall. The kit comes with 500 slips of paper so the Wishing Wall can be used again and again.



Things Remembered Memory Stick Key Chain (\$25) – a flash drive can be engraved or it can be easily personalized by loading documents containing special notes from students or photos.



Vera Bradley 2010 Agenda (\$25) – purchase a calendar or agenda and let each student insert a special note to the teacher, relating to a season, school celebration or other special date.

O'Neil recommends <u>GroupCard.com</u> as an online solution to facilitate getting students and their parents to sign and personalize an electronic card that can be printed and presented to the teacher.

"The beauty of a school class is that you instantly have a large group eager to participate in your group gift collection. Take some time to think about the teacher's interests and try to come up with at least part of the gift that involves the kids," said Jennifer Melnick Carota, author of <u>Giveology</u> and noted gift therapist. "Using online tools like FrumUs, it becomes easy to collect money, ideas and sentiments."

FrumUs collections are processed through the organizer's PayPal account with no minimum collection amounts and no FrumUs fees. Totals collected are trackable on the gift envelope page (including any cash donations received off-line), collection deadline dates are noted, and the organizer can start a discussion about dates for a party or any topic. FrumUs, Inc. was founded in 2008 to effectively streamline what was once a multi-step manual process for organizing group gifts.