

A Christmas Wish from the Children of the World:

*No more,
No more,
Oh, how we wish to live without wars!
Oh, how we wish for 2 Million Friends!
Y Not Be Friends?*

The Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers



This leaflet is produced by Pax Christi Queens,
a local chapter of the international Catholic peace movement.

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**We encourage you to reproduce this leaflet
and share it with others.**

The Christmas season is upon us. It is a time for celebrating the birthday of the Prince of Peace. In His name, we extend greetings of peace and give gifts, especially to children. How wonderful it would be if we could give our children the gift they really want: a world without war, a world of friends! But to give such a gift, we must let go of our fears and suspicions and see our common humanity, our longing for love and laughter, joy and peace. We must believe it can be done and make it happen.

Let's begin with the gifts we give this holiday season.

Research assures us that children who play with violent toys are more likely than children who don't to:

- ◆ accept violence as a way to resolve conflicts
- ◆ behave aggressively toward other children and animals
- ◆ negatively stereotype *all* people who come from a nationality, race, or religion that has been labeled enemy
- ◆ romanticize military life, combat, and war.

No one wants this for his or her children, so **let's give them gifts that help make the world the peaceful place we all dream of.**

Let's choose toys that:

- ◆ encourage children to use their imaginations to create and build and solve problems
- ◆ help them discover and develop their talents
- ◆ enable them to learn new skills
- ◆ involve cooperation and team-work.



There are lots from which to choose, and many are inexpensive and don't require batteries or electricity. Most have withstood the test of time. They're safe, simple, and fun! Here's a sample:

Art Supplies	Board Games	Building Blocks
Puzzles	Magic Sets	Science/Nature Kits
Dolls	Puppets	Play-Doh
Books	Music	Magazine Subscriptions
Bikes	Wagons	Sports Equipment
Lessons in Music, Art, Sports, or the like		
Tickets to a Show or Movie and BEST of ALL ... <i>Your Time.</i>		

Visit www.truceteachers.org, www.responsible shopper.org, www.greenamerica.org, and www.globalexchange.org for more ideas about gifts that promote the positive values we want for our children and have the extra benefit of being sweatshop-free and non-toxic.