

## The Center for Civic Engagement

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**February 6, 2012**

### To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter affirming the innovative work of the Gifts for Good program at Pacific University. Gifts for Good is a student-driven initiative that keeps items out of the landfill and supports community needs. Several aspects of Gifts for Good are noteworthy.

First, Gifts for Good emphasizes an aspect of sustainability that is often overlooked: reuse. However, this program is not just about the reuse of coffee mugs and water bottles in lieu of disposable items, but also the re-envisioning of items that could be thrown away or recycled as a new and more creative product. Thus a magazine is not just recycled, but its pages turned into gift cards and bows – therefore giving another life to items that could otherwise be thrown away or recycled.

In that regard, Gifts for Good is also innovative in its use of creative arts to design new products and “upcycle” items. Upcycling suggests that products created by Gifts for Good members are actually improved and become desirable to a potential buyer.

Upscaling suggests the third key innovation of the Gifts for Good program, which is its entrepreneurial element. The mission of Gifts for Good is twofold – it both saves items from the landfill and raises funds for community needs. Students sell items they have created not for their own income, but to donate proceeds to local community agencies.

Each aspect of the Gifts for Good program adds to its unique and innovative approach to sustainability. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance. I can be reached at (503)352-1571 or [stok@pacificu.edu](mailto:stok@pacificu.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Stokamer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Stephanie Stokamer, Ed.D.**

*Director of the Center for Civic Engagement  
Assistant Professor*