



# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

## ACROSS THE MILES

The holidays can be tough when you are apart from relatives or friends. However, you can still send them some gifts that will help them to feel closer, special presents that will make shorter the distance that separates them from their families and friends. Here are some suggestions of gifts for those who are away.

— Mark Reiter  
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▲ A classic holiday tradition is cracking open a little summer sausage and cheese from **Hickory Farms**. The Toledo company has over 700 holiday stores and kiosks across North America, including the holiday stores at **Westfield Franklin Park mall** in Toledo or **Arrowhead Shops** in Maumee or online at **HickoryFarms.com**. Prices vary.



▲ A subscription to **Starbucks Coffee**. Your friends and relatives can receive regular deliveries of coffees and teas at their doorsteps. **Prices vary**. Deliveries can be managed online at **starbucksstore.com**.



▲ **Swank Martini Company** sells martini glasses, stirrers, pitchers, and other products for the vodka-infused needs of distant friends. Orders can be placed at **swankmartini.com**. Prices for packages, which are specially wrapped, start at **\$39** and go up to **\$109**.



▲ Drink and be merry with gift baskets from **Gifttree.com**, which offers a wide array of holiday wine baskets. **Prices vary**.



▲ Stamps and stationery will make it easy for those living afar to keep in touch. The **Ivory Stationery Set** at **Barnes and Noble** has 100 sheets of writing paper, 50 envelopes, and 24 seals. Cost: **\$14.95** and be found at the store on Monroe Street and the **Shops at Fallen Timbers** and at **www.barnesandnoble.com**. A packet of 20 forever stamps can be purchased from **U.S. Postal Service** outlets for **\$9.20**.



▲ **Popcorn** is the perfect snack for the foodie on your far-away shopping list, especially when one can choose from assortment of different healthy flavors. The selection at **Rachel Michael's Gourmet Popcorn**, a Toledo-area firm, includes S'mores, Buckeye, Confetti, Buffalo Bleu, Caramel, Christmas, Kettle Corn White and Yellow Cheese, Kettle Corn, Dill Pickle, and Pinot Noir. Prices range **\$4.99** for six ounce bag to **\$50** for a two-gallon tin container, which can be purchased at **www.rachelmichaelspopcorn.com** or at the recently opened store at **5307 Monroe St.**



▲ Lions and tigers and bears. Oh my. Lars the Lion, Zenna the White Tiger, and Bard the Huge Brown Teddy Bear are among the critters at **giantstuffedanimals.com**, a Toledo Web business. Some of the gigantic stuffed pieces are over 7 feet tall and will be stalked by kids of all ages. Prices start at **\$35** for **Belle the Bichon Frise** and go up to **\$599** for **Big Bart the Black Bear**.



▲ Send a little taste of the Glass City to friends and associates who live out of town with a basket stuffed with Toledo-made products. **Taste of Toledo** has a variety of gift packages that can be purchased at its store at 6833 Angola Rd. or ordered online at **tasteoftoledo.com**. The **Best of Toledo basket**, which costs **\$86**, contains Tony Packo's Original Pickles and Peppers and Hot Dog Sauce, Marsha's Buckeyes, Garlic Expressions Dressing and Marinade, Dei Fratelli Salsa, and an assortment of gourmet food.



▲ Send smiles across the miles, with a **Snowman Cookie Jar** by **Ken's Flower Shops**. A cheery bouquet of fresh flowers and greenery is loaded under the hat of this happy hand-painted snowman. When the flowers are gone, it is a nice winter-time cookie jar. Classic bouquet **\$64.95**; Deluxe is **\$74.95**. Call 1-800-253-0100.



▲ Channel your feelings for the Glass City with Toledo-themed clothing from **#Glasswear419**. The Toledo firm has an assortment of T-shirts, hoodies, and hats with slogans and tags that allows one to boast about their roots. Costs **\$10** to **\$15** and can be ordered through **glasswear419.com**.

\* Prices and availability subject to change