

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, a Project of Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's Love. This unique project provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission outreach while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas— Jesus Christ, God's gift.

SHOE BOX- Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic shoebox-sized container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.

BOY OR GIRL- Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. (Children love picking out gifts for girls or boys of their same age to enjoy.)

FILL WITH GIFTS- Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. (The Dollar Store is a great place to shop for these items.)

- **TOYS:** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- **HYGIENE ITEMS:** toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- **OTHER:** Hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum (please double bag all candy), T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, plush bears, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).
- **A PERSONAL NOTE:** In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)
- **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

SHOE BOX LABELS- Print out a label at www.samaritanspurse.org/pdf/PackABoxwithLabels.pdf . Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

INCLUDE YOUR DONATION- Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. Write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation. (Gifts are tax deductible.)

DROP OFF- Place a rubber band around each shoe box and lid and drop off at the Collection Center nearest you during collection week in mid-November. To find a drop-off location, see: http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Drop_Off_Locations/

You can also send your shoe box gift to:

Samaritan's Purse
Operation Christmas Child
801 Bamboo Road
Boone, NC 28607

Source: http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack_A_Shoe_Box/