

Fun Summer Project

How Many Shoeboxes Can You Fill for Children?

*Bring the love of Jesus to children and their families.
Their only “Christmas” experience will be your shoebox.
And, they can hear the Gospel message...many for the 1st time!*



Since 2007, members of Holy Trinity have lovingly packed shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children in need around the world. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults and children alike to engage in hands-on mission and experience the joy of shopping for and filling shoeboxes for children who are victims of poverty in so many ways—war; natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and famines; jobless parents, or other life devastations. Each child who is given a shoebox will also receive an age- and culturally-appropriate Gospel in his/her language. There are many wonderful stories through Samaritan's Purse of how these gifts and the Gospel have brought families to church and to the feet of Jesus.

How Many Shoeboxes Can You Make Happen? Please consider packing as many shoeboxes as possible—either as your personal or family project or, even better, by asking extended family members and friends to join you in this effort. Shoeboxes will be collected at Holy Trinity during services on the second weekend in November (9 & 10).

This shoebox ministry, known as Operation Christmas Child, is a major mission effort of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational Christian organization headed by Franklin Graham. Know that your boxes of goodies may well be the only gift that a child receives all year or EVER. Also keep in mind that this is your personal opportunity to be an evangelist. So the more shoeboxes you prepare, the more opportunities you create for children and their families to know Jesus and his saving love.

Contribute or Take Shoeboxes: Please either bring your extra empty shoeboxes to the narthex for others to fill OR take shoeboxes to fill. Then take a brochure and have fun shopping! **Most importantly** as you prepare your boxes, pray often for the children who will receive them. For ideas of items to pack, please see a list on the next page.

Shipping: You will be asked to contribute \$7 for each shoebox you send. Some people feel called to support this effort by making a contribution to defray shipping costs for many shoeboxes. All contributions are appreciated. You may use the envelope attached to the brochure.

Track your box to its destination: Find out where your boxes go! Visit www.samaritanpurse.org. Click “What We Do.” and select “Operation Christmas Child.” On the left menu click “Journey of a Shoebox. You will find a “Follow Your Box” link under Collecting Shoeboxes. Once you make your online contribution for shipping, you will receive an email to print your bar code. Affix this to your shoebox, **making sure not to tape over the actual bar code.** In 2014, you will receive an email telling you the countries where your boxes were delivered.





A Shoebox Ministry to Children Around the World

1. Use a sturdy shoebox or a plastic shoebox-sized container.
2. It is not necessary, but if you wrap your box, **boxes and lids must be wrapped separately due to mandatory inspections.**
3. Select the gender (boy or girl) and age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
4. Make purchases and fill your shoebox to capacity!
5. You may include your name & address and/or a picture. Sometimes a child or family writes to you. Add on top a check to **Samaritan's Purse** for \$7 for each box you have packed. You only need one check, even if you are preparing several boxes. OR, visit www.samaritanpurse.org to download bar-coded strips to affix to your shoeboxes and learn later where they go.
6. Place the lid on your box and tape on top the completed Operation Christmas Child label.
7. Place 2-3 rubber bands around your box and bring to a Holy Trinity service November 9 or 10.

Here are ideas to get you started but be creative!

Pencils & sharpeners, eraser, crayons, glue stick,
child-safe scissors, ruler
6 x 9 pads of plain and construction paper
Pens for older children
Combs, toothbrush, soap (in plastic Ziploc bag),
washcloth
Socks, T-shirt, bandanas, sunglasses
Mirror (plastic, not glass)
Fun print tissue pack, Band-Aids with designs
Novelty plastic ware: cups, plates, straws
Age-appropriate candy/snacks: ring pops, animal

crackers, Pez & dispenser, Nerds, Mentos,
Lifesavers, etc.
Beanie Baby-sized stuffed animals, dolls, balls
(bouncy, hacky sack, blow-up beach balls,
balloons)
Age-appropriate stickers
Games: maze & dot-to-dot pads, puzzles, Legos,
coloring books, water colors & brushes
Age- & gender-appropriate small backpacks,
purses, visors, & caps

Boys

Legos, yoyos, Slinkies
Matchbox and tension-release cars & trucks
Marbles
Chap stick
Wrist watch
Flashlights-include 2 rounds of batteries

Girls

Emery boards, nail art, nail brushes
Jewelry (bracelets, necklaces, ankle bracelets, etc.)
Bead making kits
Lip gloss
Hair bands, clips, etc.
Jump ropes

Do's & Don't's

- NO toys of war (military figures, weapons, etc)
- NO chocolate or any candies that would melt in heat
- NO lotions, liquids, or anything in glass containers
- DO include storybooks (you don't know what language your child speaks)
- DO consider games (especially travel size) that have picture directions, directions in several languages., or are able to be easily understood if a child cannot read English.
- DO be culturally sensitive when making selections. This project is about spreading the love of Jesus. The children who receive your gifts are red and yellow black and white.
- AVOID toys with American flags.

Questions: Contact Rosemary Hinkle at Rhinkle@abington.org