



# Host your own PACKING PARTY

SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH CHILDREN IN NEED, AND WITH YOUR COMMUNITY, BY HOSTING AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY.

THE MATERIALS IN THIS KIT WILL HELP YOU GET YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS EXCITED ABOUT PACKING SHOEBOXES AND SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.

## Location

Determine a location, date, the number of guests to invite, and a shoebox collection goal.

## Resources

You'll find videos, photos, impact stories about shoebox recipients, downloadable coloring pages, local drop-off sites, and other resources at [SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC](http://SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC).

## Collection Center

Find your nearest Collection Center to drop off gift-filled shoeboxes at: [SamaritansPurse.ca/collection-center](http://SamaritansPurse.ca/collection-center)

## Gather supplies

**Gifts:** Ask guests to bring appropriate items to fill shoeboxes, as well as the \$10 donation for each box.

**Empty boxes:** Ask guests to bring empty shoeboxes, ask local shoe stores for empty boxes, or order Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at [SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC](http://SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC).

**Photos/Letters:** Ask guests to bring photos of themselves, or plan to take personal photos at the party. Include them, along with a personal note, in each of the gift-filled shoeboxes.

## Gather snacks and get creative

Try international foods from countries where shoeboxes are delivered. Show an impact story from the promotional DVD.

## Prepare boxes

Set up party stations for wrapping boxes (wrap the lids separately), filling boxes with gift items, and writing letters. Pack each box with at least one special toy such as a doll or car, as well as a variety of school supplies and hygiene items. Boxes should be at least two-thirds full.

## Include \$10 donation

Remind all attendees to bring a \$10 donation for each shoebox packed to help cover all related project costs. Donations can be made online or by cheque payable to Samaritan's Purse.

**ONLINE CREDIT CARD DONATION OR CHEQUE PREFERRED.**



Order and download additional materials at [SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC](http://SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC)

## HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOXES



### Gift Suggestions

**Toys and other gifts:** such as dolls, soccer balls (with needle and pump), stuffed animals, socks, hair clips, cars, musical instruments, puzzles, jump ropes, etc.

**School supplies:** such as pencils, pens, crayons, pencil crayons, notebooks, coloring books, etc.

**Non-liquid hygiene items:** such as toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, combs, etc.

**Personal note and photo** (*not inside the donation envelope*)

### Do Not Include

- Food or candy
- Toothpaste
- Used items
- Breakable items (*glass, mirrors, etc.*)
- Decks of standard playing cards
- Items that could leak, melt, or freeze (*shampoo, creams, lip balm, etc.*)
- Items that can scare or harm a child (*war-related toys, knives, toy guns, etc.*)

## \$10 DONATION IDEAS

- Don't forget to remind your group to include a \$10 donation per shoebox. This is critical to help transport and deliver each shoebox gift to a child in need, and to train our local partners who oversee the shoebox distributions and follow-up.
- Explain how much it would cost to mail a box through the post office to another country, usually over \$100.
- For children, you can hand out a small container to return filled with change. A mini M&M's® tube holds enough quarters for two gift-filled shoeboxes.
- Set up a "shipping station" at your packing party where people can drop off their \$10 donations.
- Seek a shoebox sponsor to cover the costs.
- During your Packing Party, encourage your participants to use their electronic devices to make a donation with a credit card.
- Visit [SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC](https://SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC) to learn more.

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