

Deadline to provide gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need only 10 days away

Sunday, Nov. 24 is final day to drop off Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes; after that, Canadians can still conveniently pack boxes online at PackABox.ca

November 14, 2019 – The deadline for Canadians to pack and drop off gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is only 10 days away. Sunday, Nov. 24 is the final day shoebox collection centers throughout the country will be open.

That still leaves time for Canadians to express their love and support for children in need in the developing world. Begin by visiting SamaritansPurse.ca/occ to learn what you can put in a box, then go shopping and start packing! After that, find a nearby drop-off location for your gift-filled shoeboxes by entering your postal code in our online drop-off locator and. You can also call **1-800-303-1269** for similar information.

Tens of thousands of Canadians are already packing boxes. They begin by choosing whether a shoebox will be for a boy or a girl, then decide on one of the three age ranges (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14). Boxes ideally contain school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and perhaps a clothing item, plus a suggested \$10 donation per box for shipping and other project costs. Often donors also include personal notes and photos of their family that children will treasure.

This year's shoebox campaign began on Oct. 15 and has seen volunteers and supporters all across Canada hosting and attending shoebox packing parties; school-, church-, and club-led initiatives; and even Operation Christmas Child-themed birthday parties.

"When Canadians pack Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, they let children in need know that they are not forgotten and, most importantly, that God loves them," said Fred Weiss, Samaritan's Purse Canada's executive director.

Pack shoeboxes online now, and after drop-off deadline: Canadians can pack shoeboxes online, and add personal notes and photos, at PackABox.ca at any time of year from the convenience of home.

Last year, Canadians filled more than 517,000 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with gifts for children in Central America and West Africa. Globally, thanks to generous donors in Canada and other sending countries, Samaritan's Purse has given shoeboxes to more than 167 million children in over 130 countries since 1993.

Shoeboxes are just the beginning: Operation Christmas Child creates opportunities for Samaritan's Purse to provide other help to children, their families, and their communities through safe drinking water, literacy and job skills initiatives, feeding programs, medical care, and more.

About Samaritan's Purse Canada

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ's biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Like that Good Samaritan, who found a beaten man and helped restore him, we aid victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. Besides Operation Christmas Child, our initiatives include providing safe water, vocational skills, and agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Learn more at SamaritansPurse.ca.

News Media Inquiries:

Frank King
News Media Relations Manager

1-800-663-6500 (work) or 403-990-0161 (mobile); fking@samaritan.ca