

## Canadians Invited to Bless Children in Need with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

*National Collection Week —when all boxes are to be at drop-off locations—is Nov. 15-21*

**CALGARY, AB: October 12, 2021** – Canada's 2021 Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection season starts today. Individuals, families, churches, businesses, sports teams, and community groups are now packing shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, plus personal notes and photos, to be delivered to children in need around the world.

Operation Christmas Child is an annual initiative of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization that works in more than 100 countries. Last year, Canadians filled more than 373,000 shoeboxes with gifts that shared God's love and hope with struggling children in West Africa and Central America. As the world continues to deal with COVID-19, children need joy more than ever.

Thanks to all the items that Canadians lovingly put in their shoeboxes, and the \$10-per-box they donate to cover shipping and other program costs, Samaritan's Purse is able to deliver the boxes to children around the world living in the midst of poverty, disease, war, and natural disaster.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and distributed more than 187 million shoebox gifts in over 100 countries.

"We know what the pandemic has done to our country; now consider children around the world," said Randy Crosson, director of Operation Christmas Child. "Simple gifts, offered with God's love, can change lives forever. Please be part of the journey young ones will experience starting the day they receive your gift."

Shoeboxes are given as unconditional gifts, and they often open doors for Samaritan's Purse to work with community leaders in identifying and addressing important needs such as clean water, literacy, vocational training for women, meeting children's nutritional needs, etc.

**National Shoebox Collection Week is Nov. 15-21:** Each gift-filled shoebox packed, donated, and delivered to one of hundreds of drop-off locations throughout Canada by Nov. 21 will make a long journey into the arms of a child in need. Visit our [COVID-19 updates page](#) to stay informed and find answers to frequently asked questions. Another great option is to pack boxes online at [PackABox.ca](#).

### About Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development 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 work includes providing safe water, vocational skills, and agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Visit [SamaritansPurse.ca](#) for more information.

### News Media Contact:

To interview a local, national, or international representative of Operation Christmas Child, to obtain information about shoebox events, or to locate shoebox drop-off locations, please contact:

Frank King, news media relations manager, Samaritan's Purse Canada  
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**News Media Resources:** Operation Christmas Child radio, TV, and general media kits are [here](#). To learn more, including suggestions of what to put in shoeboxes, please visit [SamaritansPurse.ca/OCC](#).