



BECOMING A CONNECT VOLUNTEER WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

An opportunity to minister to a lost and hurting world

Every day, boys and girls worldwide suffer from war, poverty, disease, and natural disaster. Operation Christmas Child makes it possible for millions of these children to experience God's love through shoeboxes filled with gifts by caring individuals, families, churches, and other groups in Canada and the 12 other sending countries.

Operation Christmas Child distributes the gifts to children in over 100 countries and works with local churches where possible, offering children a Gospel booklet, in their own language, called The Greatest Gift. Wherever possible, in the weeks following a shoebox distribution, local churches invite the children to return for a 12-lesson, follow-up, discipleship program, called The Greatest Journey. Through The Greatest Journey, millions of children have committed their lives to Jesus Christ.

An opportunity to serve right where you are

Hundreds of Connect Volunteers are serving year-round in their local communities to reach those hurting children. They are mobilizing churches, community groups, prayer support, and media coverage in order to engage churches and groups to participate in Operation Christmas Child by giving shoebox gifts. Your efforts in your local community can make all the difference for thousands of children overseas!

But where does it start?

It begins with prayer and this application! As you complete the application, pray that the Lord would reveal where He is calling you to use your talents and gifts. Return the completed application to your Regional Manager or Area Coordinator and they will be in touch to set up an interview time. This is a time where you can hear more about what God is doing through OCC and the leadership can hear more about your heart for serving.

THE TEAM APPROACH

To facilitate the growth and multiply the impact of Operation Christmas Child in Canada, Connect Volunteers work on **Area Teams**. Area Teams facilitate the planning, implementation, and growth of Operation Christmas Child in their geographic regions. Resources and training are provided to equip Area Teams for their Operation Christmas Child ministries.

A complete Area Team is comprised of the **Area Coordinator**, and six main ministry teams: **Church Relations, Community Relations, Prayer, Media Support, Student Relations, and Collection Network**.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD MINISTRY TEAMS

Ministry Teams mobilize and equip individuals, churches, and groups to become actively involved in fulfilling the Great Commission through Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Each team consists of dedicated Connect Volunteers committed to fulfill the mission of OCC through the use of their gifts and talents.

Prayer Team

The Prayer Team is made up of Connect Volunteers who have a heart for Christ and who believe in the power of prayer. The Prayer Team Members are committed to cover the entire project, including volunteers, donors, receiving countries, receiving children and their families as well as the logistics of the collection and transportation in prayer.

Church Relations Team

The Church Relations Team is a group of interdenominational Connect Volunteers who work together to spread the opportunity of Operation Christmas Child to local churches. These highly dedicated volunteers call on new churches and churches that have previously participated in the ministry to share with them the joy and Gospel impact that comes from sending shoebox gifts to hurting children around the world. These creative volunteers help church groups find innovative ways to incorporate Operation Christmas Child into the ministry of their churches.

Community Relations Team

Connect Volunteers serving on a Community Relations Team work throughout the year to build relationships with groups outside the church such as schools, businesses, civic organizations and scout groups. Their goals are to build awareness in their local community by partnering with local businesses and groups and to increase the number of shoebox gifts that will be provided around the world by inviting community groups to participate in the ministry.

Media Support

Media Support volunteers are responsible for the year-round media promotion of Operation Christmas Child. These Connect Volunteers are gifted in building relationships with various media outlets, including radio, print and television, with a goal of increasing awareness of the project and ultimately generating more shoebox gifts for the children around the world.

Student Relations Team

Student Relations volunteers serve as an advocate for Operation Christmas Child in schools, universities, and student organizations.

Collection Network

The Connect Volunteers that make up the Collection Network have the important role of organizing the proper collection of the shoebox gifts in their area. These dedicated volunteers at Drop-off Locations enjoy using their gifts of organization, planning and communication, and their heart for Christ to collect the carefully packed shoebox gifts.

Administrative Support

Administrative support volunteers organize and manage resources and information for their local area team leadership. Their work is vital to bringing Good News and great joy to children in need.

Area Coordinator

The Area Coordinator is a Connect Volunteer who has the responsibility of leading the Area Leadership Team, made up of the coordinators of the five Ministry Teams. He or she is responsible for developing and managing this team in an effort to plan and implement all Operation Christmas Child activities in their area by establishing goals and strategies for success. The Area Coordinator is responsible for the recruitment, selection, training, and leadership of all the volunteers who currently serve or who will serve on the team.

TEAM MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

Samaritan's Purse strives to select volunteers who embrace our ministry goals and objectives. This requires coordinators and team members to be committed to:

Jesus Christ

Evangelism and discipleship are at the heart of Operation Christmas Child. Therefore the commitment of individuals with a personal, growing relationship with Christ is a must. As Christians, the Lord requires us to be a part of a local body of believers for spiritual growth, encouragement, worship, and accountability. Serving the Lord through Operation Christmas Child should be only a part of a balanced Christian lifestyle.

Integrity

As representatives of Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child, volunteers serve as ambassadors of this ministry. Each one must implement Operation Christmas Child with unquestionable integrity, knowing that their service reflects not only on the ministry, but also the name of Jesus Christ.

Operation Christmas Child

To minister effectively, individuals should embrace the Samaritan's Purse Mission and Statement of Faith, sharing the belief that it is a privilege to serve the Lord in and through this ministry. They must be personally committed to packing shoeboxes, as well as praying for the children receiving shoebox gifts in order to set an example to those we encourage to participate.

Teamwork

As a group of people dedicated to bringing love, hope, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to needy children worldwide, individuals must function in a team setting. It is vital for all to respect the ministry leadership in place.

Empowering Others

Individuals should possess strong interpersonal skills, be able to enjoy and rejoice in the success of others, and inspire and motivate others to serve the Lord together through Operation Christmas Child.

Spiritual Shepherding

The gift of shepherding (caring for others) churches, groups, and individuals who participate in Operation Christmas Child is essential to the success of this ministry. Team members and leaders should remain open and sensitive to the spiritual needs of other volunteers and participants, praying with and building up the Body of Christ as they serve the Lord through Operation Christmas Child.

The Body of Christ

Operation Christmas Child is a nondenominational evangelical organization serving Christian churches worldwide. We must be willing to work with Christians and churches of all traditions, denominations and ethnicities. Operation Christmas Child is committed to empowering the entire body of Christ.

Volunteer Guidelines

I understand that I am a volunteer and not an employee of Samaritan's Purse Canada (SP) or Operation Christmas Child (OCC). I assume all risks associated with performing my volunteer duties and release and hold SP harmless from any claims, liability or other damages arising from my association and activities with SP.

Understanding SP's need for new and ongoing promotion of OCC, I will allow SP to use any OCC-related photographs, films, other media, statements or testimonials made by me or that include me. I waive any rights related to the above-mentioned.

I agree to use information related to OCC (eg. participating church or group lists) only for the purpose of fulfilling my ministry role with OCC. I will not use this information for other purposes or share or send this information to other organizations or individuals who are not Connect Volunteers or OCC staff members.

I have read and agree with the Samaritan's Purse Statement of Faith. I understand and agree that either SP or I may terminate this Agreement at any time for any or no reason.

Please see the Samaritan's Purse Statement of Faith on the following page.

Samaritan's Purse Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Ephesians 4:4-6.

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. *Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-4 and 1:29; Acts 1:11 and 2:22-24; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4 and 4:15.*

We believe that all men everywhere are lost and face the judgment of God, that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, and that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit. *Luke 24:46-47; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Ephesians 1:7 and 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7.*

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, whose indwelling enables the Christian to live a godly life. *John 3:5-8; Acts 1:8 and 4:31; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:6-10.*

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the saved unto the resurrection of eternal life and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation and eternal punishment. *1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 20:11-15.*

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and that all true believers are members of His body, the church. *1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23.*

We believe that the ministry of evangelism and discipleship is a responsibility of all followers of Jesus Christ. *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15; 1 Peter 3:15.*

We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female. *Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9.*

We believe that we must dedicate ourselves to prayer, to the service of our Lord, to His authority over our lives, and to the ministry of evangelism. *Matthew 9:35-38; 22:37-39, and 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15 and 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10; Colossians 2:6-10; 1 Peter 3:15.*

We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; and that we must have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of our fellowmen. *Psalms 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10.*



Operation Christmas Child Connect Volunteer Application

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Mr. Mrs. Miss Dr. Rev. Gender: M F

Address: _____
Street City Province Postal Code

Primary Phone: _____ home/work/cell Secondary Phone: _____ home/work/cell
Please circle Please circle

Email Address: _____ Birthday (Month/Day): _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Do you have regular internet access? Yes No

What computer programs/software do you know how to use?

Please briefly share your personal Christian testimony:

How did you hear about year-round volunteer opportunities with Operation Christmas Child (OCC)?

Please describe why you are interested in serving as a volunteer with OCC.

Please list any prior activity or service experiences with Samaritan's Purse/OCC:

Share three of your strengths and how you could see them used in your volunteer service:

Describe three of your weaknesses:

Share some of your talents, interests, and abilities:

Tell us about any type of Christian ministry or other volunteer experience you've had in the last five years:

Tell us about any leadership experiences you have had:

Describe an event and/or accomplishment in your life that you have found fulfilling:

As a partner in ministry, it is important to Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child that individuals representing the ministry maintain a Christian standard of living.

References

Local church fellowship/affiliation: _____

Pastor (i.e., Pastor, small group leader, etc.): _____

Daytime Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Two other references (not family)

Name: _____

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Relationship: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

I am applying to serve in one of the following areas (select all you are interested in):

- Area Coordinator:** Recruits, selects, equips and leads a team of year-round volunteers to multiply the project
- Church Relations:** Represents OCC to churches and church groups and mobilizes them to increase participation
- Community Relations:** Represents OCC to schools, businesses, and civic groups and mobilizes them to increase participation
- Media Support:** Raises awareness about OCC by building relationships with media outlets and increasing OCC media hits
- Prayer:** Covers the various aspects of OCC in prayer
- Student Relations:** advocate for Operation Christmas Child in schools, universities, and student organizations.
- Area Team Administrative Support:** organize and manage resources and information for their local area team leadership.
- Collection Network (Logistics Coordinator, Central Drop-off Team Leader, Drop-off Team Leader):** Ensures the careful collection and transportation of OCC shoebox gifts.

I affirm that information in this application is true. I understand and agree with the Operation Christmas Child Volunteer Guidelines and Samaritan's Purse Statement of Faith as outlined on page 5 & 6 of this application.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Full Name (if under 18): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____