



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®

A Project of Samaritan's Purse®, Franklin Graham, President

Fact Sheet

Purpose:

- The world's largest Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child, uses gift-filled shoeboxes to share God's love in a tangible way with needy children around the world.

Scope:

- Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected and delivered more than **113 million** gift-filled shoeboxes to children in over 150 countries through Operation Christmas Child.
- In 2014, Samaritan's Purse hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another **10 million** children through the Operation Christmas Child project.
- Shoebox gifts are collected in the United States, Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.
- More than 500,000 volunteers worldwide, with more than 100,000 of those in the United States, are involved in collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts.

Process:

- Individuals, families, churches, and groups fill empty shoeboxes with gifts of toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and notes of encouragement.
- During **National Collection Week, Nov. 17-24**, Samaritan's Purse will collect the gift-filled shoeboxes at more than 4,000 drop-off sites in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- Operation Christmas Child also offers the opportunity year-round to pack personalized shoebox gifts online. Go to samaritanspurse.org and click on Operation Christmas Child to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement, and "pack" them in a shoebox.
- Shoebox gifts are prepared for overseas shipment at nine major processing centers across the United States—Atlanta; Baltimore; Boone, N.C.; Charlotte; Dallas; Denver; Honolulu; Minneapolis; and Southern California.
- Samaritan's Purse will deliver the gifts to children in more than 100 countries on six continents.
- Donors can find out the country where their gifts are delivered by creating shipping labels and using the donation form found at samaritanspurse.org. Click on "Pack a Shoebox" / "Follow-Your-Box Label."

Discipleship:

- More than 2.8 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey, the 12-lesson discipleship program created by Samaritan's Purse for children who receive Operation Christmas Child gift boxes. The Greatest Journey is one of the largest discipleship programs in the world, implemented through a global church network to help children know and follow Jesus Christ.

Media Resources:

- samaritanspurse.org/newsroom