

This is the start
of something...
Beautiful



ST. ELIZABETH'S OPERATION

CHRISTMAS CHILD MINISTRY

What is Operation Christmas Child?

It's a Samaritan's Purse project which collects shoeboxes (filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items) and delivers them to children in need **around the world** to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, this shoebox gift is the first gift they have **ever** received. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, has collected and delivered more than 188 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries including the U.S. and its territories. In 2021, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 9.7 million children.

Anyone can pack a shoebox: Individuals, families, churches, and groups!
(Fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls.)

Step-by-Step: How to Pack a Shoebox (it's easy!!) **(Boxes and labels available in the Gathering Space.)**

1. **FIND A SHOEBOX!** Start with an average size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you want to wrap it, cover the box and lid separately. You can use your own shoeboxes or use a preprinted one that will be available in the bins in the Gathering Space.
2. **GET YOUR LABELS!** Labels will be available on the brochures in the plastic holders in the Gathering Space or visit the label options page <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/label-options>. Use the label to indicate on the shoebox whether it was packed for a boy or girl and which age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
3. **FILL WITH GIFTS!** Select a medium "wow" item such as a soccer ball with a pump or a stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Don't forget a personal note and photo--these are the child's favorite things to receive. Add a Coloring Sheet! Coloring sheets attached to preprinted boxes or see the website listed above.
4. **PRAY!** Most importantly, "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) for the child who will receive your shoebox gift.

Questions? Email: outreach@stelizabeth.org (MaryAnn Giannettino), faithformation@stelizabeth.org (John Fruner) or youth@stelizabeth.org (Francis Serpico). (For more details on how to pack your shoebox, view gift suggestions, get your Follow-Your-Box label and a list of items to include and not include see the brochure (attached to pre-printed box) or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.)

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Rubber band your filled, labeled box and leave in the Gathering Space or at the Parish Center Receptionist Desk before November 17, please.