



We are inviting our Journey Land families to once again participate in the annual packing of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

We are asking each family to prayerfully consider packing at least one shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Beginning *Sunday, October 18*, shoeboxes will be available at the Journey Land check in for you to take home and pack. Inside each box will be information on how to pack your shoebox. You may start returning your packed boxes to the Journey Land check in desk between ***Sunday, October 25 and Sunday, November 15***. You are also free to drop off a packed shoebox to the church office during the week at anytime during our collection period if you are not yet attending in-person worship gatherings (office is closed on Mondays). The *National Collection Week* is November 16-23 and we will be donating all boxes to a designated collection site during this week.

Some things to remember before bringing your box to Journey Land:

- If you don't have an Operation Christmas Child box or don't feel comfortable coming to FVC to get one, that's okay! You are free to pack a regular shoebox or a plastic shoebox with a lid. Plastic boxes do not need to be wrapped, but please wrap any cardboard shoeboxes that are not designated OCC boxes (making sure the lid and box are wrapped separately so the box can still be opened).
- Place a thick rubber band around the box to ensure the lid is closed and secure.
- Make sure you have affixed the designated label to the top of the box and have selected a gender and age group for the gift. You can access a label here if necessary:  
<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/>
- Please enclose a check made payable to Samaritan's Purse in the amount of \$9 to cover the cost of shipping and processing for each box. You can also go online to pay this fee and sign up to "Follow Your Box" to track the destination of your shoebox (use the link above to do this).
- Please **DO NOT** include any of the following gifts: candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

If you have more questions about Operation Christmas Child, feel free to contact Lauri Marmorstone or Chris Yops, or log on to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> where you will find a wealth of information about the organization and packing a shoebox. Thank you in advance for your support and service to this mission!