



FACT SHEET

What is Operation Christmas Child?

- The Samaritan's Purse project [Operation Christmas Child](https://samaritanspurse.org/occ) collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies and personal care 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, the giftfilled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.
- Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 232 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories. In 2025, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 12.6 million children.

Process

- Anyone can pack a shoebox. Individuals, families, churches and groups fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, personal care items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls.
- During **National Collection Week (Nov. 17–24, 2025)**, Samaritan's Purse will collect the giftfilled shoeboxes at nearly 5,000 dropoff locations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- Learn how to pack a shoebox, view gift suggestions, find the nearest drop-off location, and Follow Your Box at samaritanspurse.org/occ.
- Do not include candy; soap; toothpaste; used or damaged items; warrelated items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; or aerosol cans.
- Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through Follow Your Box and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.
- Participants who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.
- Shoebox gifts are prepared for overseas shipment at eight major processing centers across the U.S.—Atlanta; Baltimore; Boone, North Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Dallas/Fort Worth; Denver; Chicago; and Fullerton, California.

Scope

- Shoebox gifts are collected in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.
- More than 11.9 million shoebox gifts were collected globally in 2024, 10.5 million from the U.S. alone. In 2025, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoeboxes to reach another 12.6 million children.
- Over 519,000 volunteers worldwide—with more than 204,000 of those in the U.S.—are involved in collecting, shipping and distributing shoebox gifts.

- Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Samaritan's Purse currently works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine.

Eternal Impact

- Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love.
- Since 2009 over 46 million shoebox recipients have participated in our 12-lesson discipleship course, The Greatest Journey. More than 23 million boys and girls have made decisions for Christ.

Social Media

Facebook [@OperationChristmasChild](#)

X (Formerly Twitter) [@occ_shoeboxes](#)

Instagram [@operationchristmaschild](#)

Multimedia Resources

- [high-res photos](#)
- [broadcast-quality b-roll](#)

Samaritan's Purse is an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Since 1993, more than 232 million Operation Christmas Child giftfilled shoeboxes have been distributed to children in more than 170 countries and territories. To learn about yearround and seasonal volunteer opportunities or to serve with Operation Christmas Child, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.