

The Journey of a Shoe Box

It starts when a caring Canadian fills a shoe box with gifts, prays for the child who will receive it, and drops it off at one of hundreds of Collection Centers across Canada.

From the Collection Center, the shoe box is trucked to a Processing Center, where it is inspected and prepared for shipping by trained volunteers.

The shoe box is loaded into a sea container, along with thousands of others, and shipped overseas where it is received in the destination country by a team of Operation Christmas Child volunteers called a National Leadership Team.

From the port of entry, many methods of transportation, such as airplane, canoe, helicopter, truck, donkey, camel, etc., may be used to get the shoe box to its final destination.

The shoe box is given to a child at an event organized by a local church in cooperation with the National Leadership Team. Church members go into their community and invite children living in situations of disaster, war, and poverty to the event.

At the event, if culturally appropriate, a pastor or teacher will share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, often using music and drama.

Every child then receives a shoe box as an unconditional gift regardless of race, religion, or gender. A child is not required to accept anything or make a confession of faith to receive a shoe box.

Each child is also offered a copy of *The Greatest Gift*, a colorful booklet that tells the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In the weeks following the shoe box distribution, the local church follows up with the children who received a shoe box and invites them to be part of *The Greatest Journey*, a 12-lesson Bible study program.

Upon graduation from *The Greatest Journey*, many of the children receive a New Testament Bible to help them grow in their faith.