



# Operation Christmas Child

## FACT SHEET

### Purpose

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

### Scope

- Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected and delivered more than **124 million** gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories through Operation Christmas Child.
- In 2015, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another **11 million** children.
- Shoebox gifts are collected in the U.S., Australia, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Spain and the U.K.
- 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 a "wow" item—like a doll or soccer ball—and other fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement.
- During **National Collection Week (Nov. 16 – 23)** Samaritan's Purse collects the gift-filled shoeboxes at more than 4,000 drop-off sites in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- Operation Christmas Child also offers a year-round opportunity to pack personalized shoeboxes online. Go to [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement and "pack" them in a shoebox. These gifts will go to children in some of the hardest-to-reach countries around the world.
- Shoebox gifts are prepared for overseas shipment at eight major processing centers across the U.S.—Atlanta; Baltimore; Boone, N.C.; Charlotte, N.C.; Dallas; Denver; Minneapolis; and Orange County, Calif.
- Samaritan's Purse and its partners will deliver the gifts to children in more than 100 countries.
- Participants can follow their box online to discover where in the world their gift is delivered by using the donation form found at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ).

### Discipleship

- More than 4.7 million children have participated in *The Greatest Journey*, the Samaritan's Purse discipleship program that is offered to many children who receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. *The Greatest Journey* is implemented through a global church network to help children learn how to know and follow Jesus.

For additional media resources, visit [samaritanspurse.org/occnewsroom](http://samaritanspurse.org/occnewsroom).