

Shoebox Scoop

February 2023

Issue #2



Destination: Mexico

First Baptist Church shoeboxes left the processing center in Denver and headed to Mexico on November 28, 2022. They are not yet arrived at their final destination. We'll let you know when they are delivered. Continue to pray for our boxes, for the distribution plans, and especially for the recipients of our boxes. The 2022 Operation Shoebox goal was 11 million. Although the organization didn't hit that goal, there were still nearly 100 thousand more boxes than last year! That is still a win! 100,000 more children get a box full of gifts and hear about the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. 10,599,907 shoebox gifts packed and donated worldwide in 2022. God is so good! And First Baptist Church was part of this great project!

LUNCH AND LABOR – March 19

We've been checking with others to discover how much money is spent/allocated for each shoebox. The general range is \$20 - \$30. To make the budget stretch further, we want to plan to have crafty folks make and donate things which gives us the flexibility to pay a little extra for a soccer ball and pump, a special tool for the boys, sewing kits for the girls, sunglasses, etc. We're working on crocheted hats, doll blankets, wooden cars, Barbie doll clothes. **Our first LUNCH AND LABOR will be March 19 – plan on helping us prepare items for the shoeboxes!**



Special Requests: We have some special requests for this month: (1) pick up a pill bottle with a Shoebox label – like the one pictured above -- fill it with quarters and return it to FBC – in doing so, you will contribute \$10 and that will cover the cost of shipping one box, (2) consider making a monetary contribution this month as we have four projects for which we need specific supplies – our total need is \$108.00, (3) consider purchasing a small-handled hammer from Harbor Freight or Menards (around \$3.00) – but to save you some money, use a Harbor Freight 30% off coupon and the hammer is a little over \$2.00 – we're making tool boxes for the boys 10 – 14, (4) consider adding a pair of pliers or a set of screwdrivers to your shopping cart – they will add more to the boys' toolboxes too, (5) share with us your wisdom on fishing – we're thinking of what and how to make a fishing kit for the boys' boxes ages 5 – 14, (6) consider fabric or craft supplies that you have but are not going to use – we'll find a way to use them to enrich our boxes.

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Year-round giving and

collecting: Contact with other organizations/churches who have been doing shoebox goals have shown us that identifying specific types of shoebox items each month may allow us to make use of sale items and to encourage us to be on the lookout for shoebox supplies.

This month: February: accessories – hair bows, sunglasses, jewelry, wristwatch

March: crocheted hats/scarves, crafted items (toys, stuffed animals, wooden cars)

April: cuddly toys (one of the most coveted items in a shoebox – the WOW!)

May: hygiene items – soap, comb, toothbrush, washcloth, fingernail clippers

June: toys – doll, jump rope, soccer ball (and pump) – the WOW in a boy's box

July: musical instruments – harmonica, kazoo, tambourine

August: school supplies – pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpener, ruler, crayons, paper

September: games – puzzles, tic tac toe, coloring books, marbles

January: cold weather gear – hats, gloves, scarves

We are consummate shoppers and have outlets where we can purchase items in bulk at a much lower price than conventional retail sales. If you would like the Shoebox team to be your personal

shoppers, we will gladly allocate your monies to make sure that we have enough of significant items to fill all the boxes. For example, we have purchased 5” pumps (which fit nicely in boxes) for \$1.27 each – much less than Walmart (\$5 - \$10) for single purchase options. We have found a source for fingernail clippers where the cost per item is \$.31. We found hand-crank flashlights (no batteries needed) for \$1.37 each. We found a source for 6-inch rulers at a cost of \$.15 each. We will shop for you and collect supplies – but we would like to have your donation in hand – AND you will need to pack your shoebox!

AmazonSmile: I received an e-mail from AmazonSmile with an update. It was long but the gist of the e-mail is they are ending AmazonSmile effective 2/20/23 and will help and invest in other ways Samaritan's Purse has received \$986,527.19 from Amazon Smile since the program's inception. We'll be seeking other ways to support Samaritan's Purse, and we'll be sure to share with you.



Only 40 weeks to collection time for 2023.