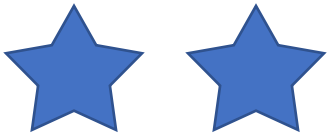
Shoebox Scoop

April 2023 Issue #4

Graduation picture from a community north of Veracrux, Mexico. We still have not heard where our boxes have "landed" but pictures from others reflect that the boxes are a big hit with the children and their communities – and the Gospel is being heard. Continue to pray for the delivery system, the local pastors and leaders who coordinate the teaching and shoebox distribution, the communities which may hear the Gospel for the first time, and the hearts of the children and their families to the Word of God.



I read that boys and girls who were dressed well were not targeted by sex traffickers because the children look like they are taken care of by their parents and someone would notice if they disappeared---I believe that adding clothes to each shoebox could be a priority. We need shorts for boys 10-14, and both boys and girls 5 – 9.

We're looking for FBC members who would be willing to write a personal note to a shoebox recipient. We want to make our boxes more personal this year and have learned that personal notes are a real plus. You don't need to speak another language! If interested, see a Shoebox Team member.

JoAnn packed this box for a boy 10-14. It is so well-packed that it needed two rubber bands to close it. What do you think she included in the box? A picture of the items and a list are found on another page in this month's Scoop. If you need hints on what we need for shoeboxes, check with one of the Shoebox Team.

After completing the Greatest Journey, children attend a graduation celebration and receive a certificate. Most importantly, they are given a Bible that includes the New Testament and selected Old Testament stories along with a dictionary of Biblical terms and a map of Bible lands. Complete with illustrations, it is often the first copy of God's Word the child, or their family, will own.

Family and friends who attend the ceremony hear the Gospel. After seeing the transformation in the students, their loved ones' hearts are open to hearing the Good News for themselves. Praise God, many of them come to faith in Christ.

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Thanks to the teens who worked with the Shoebox Team on Wednesday night and made fidgets (with glow-in-the-dark beads) and worked with t-shirt yarn to create 58 jump rope kits!

Someone donated a 2022 calendar with this beautiful picture as part of its treasures. We're using some of those pictures to decorate the inside of the shoeboxes we send. What a delight to open a box and find a beautiful picture!

We're (FBC Shoebox Team) hosting a meeting for Northern Wyoming Shoebox Project Leaders. We want to glean wisdom and enthusiasm from others engaged in OCC and build a strong community in Northern Wyoming. We're meeting on April 19 – so please pray that God will send all the people who need to be there; that we can share, grow, and encourage one another; and that our new learning will build a strong and committed focus on the shoebox ministry.

????Anyone ready to braid some jump ropes? We need 100 to fill our boxes for all the children 5 – 14! See a Shoebox Team member for a kit.

Lunch and Labor on March 19 was a great success. We certainly didn't complete all the projects that need to be done (future Lunch and Labor dates to come) but we certainly made some progress. Thanks to all the helpers, we were able to complete:

*31 sewing kits for the 10-14 girls
*29 tanagrams (puzzles) for the 5 – 9 children
*188 craft kits (some for all of the age groups)
*trimming of calendar pages to fit upcoming projects and boxes

Only 32 weeks to collection time for 2023!

What was in JoAnn's packed box for boys 10-14?

1.Toothbrush 2. Soap 3. Washcloth 4. Comb 5. Pencils 6. Colored pencils 7. Eraser 8. Sharpener 9. Colored markers 10. Comb 11. Notebook paper 12. Backpack 13. Toolbox 14. Pliers 15. Hammer 16. Screwdrivers 17. Level 18. Tape measure 19. Flashlight 20. Canteen 21. Shorts 22. Top 23. Socks 24. Hat 25. Gloves 26. Fingernail clippers 27. Tablets 28. Ball 29. Pump 30. Scissors. Whew! See the Shoebox Team for training on how to pack a shoebox. Note: we will need more of these items to fill the other 29 boxes for boys 10-14.

Thanks, Nicole, for crocheting these cute hats to include in our boxes…..some children will be so happy to have their own hat! Anyone else who likes to crochet? Anyone have a yarn "stash" they would like to share? Let someone on the Shoebox Team know.

Year-round giving and collecting:

April: specific needs for the boxes: (1) soccer balls (we have pumps), (2) 5 hammers with small handles (check Harbor Freight coupons for deals), (3) 26 pliers, and (4) baby dolls (small ones that will fit in the shoebox)

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

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

March: crocheted hats/scarves, craft items (that the children can create), toys, stuffed animals, cars, musical instruments (maracas, harmonicas, kazoos)

Do you have a drawer at home filled with the clutter of free tablets and list-makers? Share your clutter with the Shoebox Team. These little pieces of paper will slip easily into a shoebox, offer another place to draw or write, and provide additional opportunities for the children. We would love to have your clutter!!!!