THE SHOEBOX SCOOP

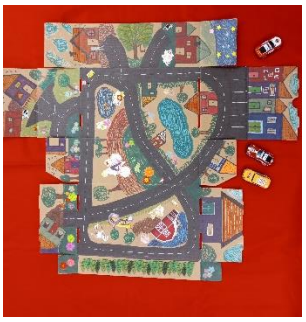
June 2023

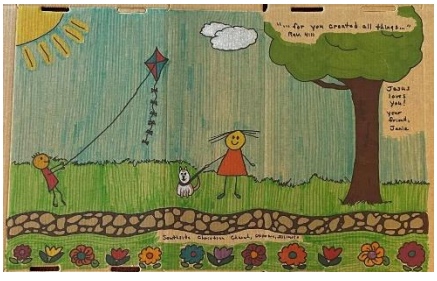
Every Talent Counts

During WWI, the American Red Cross called on American citizens to assist the troops fighting overseas. One of their greatest successes was a knitting campaign called *Knit Your Bit*, which required only knitting needles, wool, and an easily-learned skill. At the end of the war, Americans had produced 24 million military garments, including sweaters, helmet-liners, and socks. Men, women, boys, and girls all contributed to the effort. No skill was too little, no contribution too insignificant, to answer the call.

In the same way, your creative skills are a gift to the kingdom of God. Your imagination can be used for His glory! You may think God isn't interested in using your creativity. But your gifts are a great blessing to others. Where might your efforts be a blessing? Do you know someone who could benefit from your thoughtfulness? So it is with OCC Shoebox: your skills are gifts that can make the ministry of the shoeboxes even more successful. What part will you accept?

Decorating the inside of boxes….





Would you be willing to help us color and decorate the inside of our shoeboxes so that each child will have an interesting box? Will you sign your name? Will you release your inner child and color again? We'll let you know when this project needs your participation.

Delivery Methods…..around the world

Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts are delivered in-country to year-round national and regional leadership teams that coordinate the logistics of shoebox gift distributions in their countries. These Christian volunteers strategize how to reach the children in their country with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They train local volunteers—pastors, ministry leaders, and discipleship teachers—to lead outreach events and follow-up discipleship classes. With this approach, local Christians who know the culture and language best are given effective resources and a solid Biblical foundation so that they can communicate the Gospel within their own communities. Consider some of these delivery methods…..

The Greatest Journey

This twelve-week study introduces the children to God and His plan for salvation. They already know that God loves them, because your box is a representation of God's love. God has such a plan that the box we pack in November and arrives in a village/church/home months later may have the very item that the child has been longing for.

In Section 1 of The Greatest Journey the students are taught six Bible stories with real people that help the children understand who God is and what He has done for them. In week one -- They are taught creation (all of the seven days), that God knows them, and knows everything about them because He made them. The scripture verse is Genesis 1:27. They are encouraged to remember that (1) God made everything good, (2) Everything belongs to Him, and (3) God made each to be His child. In week two – They are taught how sin entered the Garden and how Adam and Eve were sent from the garden because of their sin. The Scripture verse is Romans 6:23. They are encouraged to remember that (1) God made me to live in peace with Him, (2) Sin separates me from God, and (3) Sin is anything I do, say, or think that goes against God.

BE IN PRAYER FOR THE SHOEBOX MINISTRY

PRAY:
*for all those God is calling to serve in the various open roles on teams in all the sending countries
*for God to open doors for new churches and groups to participate in 2023
*for physical and spiritual protection for staff, volunteers, their families and children. Pray against satanic strongholds and for God's Kingdom to triumph!
*that many children will accept Jesus as their savior as ministry partners distribute gift boxes and present the Gospel through The Greatest Gift
*for the printing of ministry materials and good relationships with consignees, customs officers, freight forwarders. Pray that God would graciously keep countries open for importation and that He would open up countries that are currently closed.

22 WEEKS UNTIL COLLECTION TIME!

Monthly contribution suggestions for shoeboxes

June: toys of all kinds, jump ropes (we'll continue to make jump rope kits…..will you continue to braid the ropes?). We're going to create a list of supplies to include in a fishing kit….we'll share our list this month.
Specific needs: pliers, 5 small-handled hammers, work gloves, hats
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
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, washcloth, fingernail clippers

This little girl in Honduras certainly loves the doll she found in her shoebox…..what WOW item will you want to include?