

THE SHOEBOX SCOOP

July 2023



The Shoebox Team has been busy making sneaky snakes and bendable dolls. Want to join us? We meet on Monday from 1:30 to 3:30. You're always welcome!



Christmas in July ...

Christmas comes but twice a year Once at home....and once at FBC as we continue to work toward our Shoebox Goal. Watch for opportunities to participate in our final "push" to gather all the supplies we need to accomplish our goals. We want to pack 150 boxes (25 boxes for each gender and each age group: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14). Our goals do not include the boxes that individuals plan on preparing, so don't be dissuaded from your personal plans.

Look for the Christmas tree and the llama next week (July 9) for specific ways you can shop to help meet our 2023 shoebox goals.

Pray for Your Box

As you pray about your "box" and your participation in OCC for 2023, consider this information. This chart reflects the percentage of boxes for each gender and age group. Where does God want you to focus your attention?

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Boy 2-4	9.24%	9.52%	9.64%	9.95%
Boy 5-9	22.62%	21.92%	21.97%	21.75%
Boy 10-14	15.15%	15.37%	15.37%	15.31%
Girl 2-4	10.99%	10.87%	11.33%	11.58%
Girl 5-9	25.73%	25.25%	24.89%	24.60%
Girl 10-14	16.27%	17.07%	16.80%	16.81%



Calling all broken/used crayons

Another clutter-reducer....do you have broken and used crayons that you could donate to the Shoebox goal? We know that we can take old crayons, (paper removed) break them into small pieces, put them in a silicone mold, place in the oven for a short time....and voila! We have fun crayon pieces to include in our boxes. We will want new crayons, too, but this little treat is an extra that allows all of us to clean out our stashes. Drop your used crayons in the basket for Shoebox donations.

What shall I put in my shoebox?

A woman involved in the OCC ministry shared this story from her 2022 experience: “Last year, I wondered why we were finding so much chalk on sale, so cheap. It was literally everywhere I turned, every single place I went shopping. I wasn’t sure at first if it should be used for shoeboxes. I wondered whether the children had sidewalks, something to write on, etc., Then I remembered all of the different things I did with chalk when I was a child. Yes, I often wrote on sidewalks, but also on paper, chalk boards, rocks, brick, etc. I then concluded that if the Lord kept providing it, that it was supposed to go in the shoeboxes. Nearly every shoebox that was packed by our church had chalk included. Fast forward a few months later, and I am in an OCC area meeting. The lady who was speaking, **Emily**, had received a letter with pictures of children from Madagascar, who had received shoeboxes. It was a picture of them in the classroom. Apparently, in many schools there, they still use the small chalkboards and chalk, rather than paper, due to many children not having access to school supplies such as pencils, paper, etc. Madagascar was one of the countries that many of the shoeboxes went to! God knew where the shoeboxes were going before they were ever packed, and provided what was needed, even though it seemed like an odd item at the time. It is so beautiful to see God working in this magical way, that only HE can.”

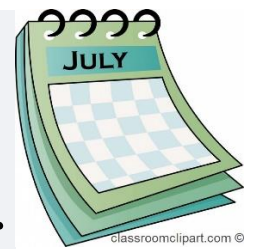
Shoebox Suggestions:

OCC says a Quality Shoebox will be **FUN, FULL, UNIQUE, PERSONALIZED** and **PRAYED OVER**. So begin to pray over your plans for a shoebox, the recipient, and how God will lead you to choose your box contents.

**19 WEEKS UNTIL
COLLECTION TIME**



Last month in Madagascar, Ferdinand received a shoebox gift filled with school supplies—motivating him to further apply himself in the classroom. Not long after, his grades improved, and he has now tested high enough to qualify for FREE public high school!



Lunch and Labor

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 23**, when the Shoebox Team will host another Lunch and Labor. We’ll provide the lunch. We’ll prepare the projects for your hands to complete. You’ll need to provide the Labor – no special training required. Plan on joining us and getting to know your church family and recognize (as Donavon pointed out from Scripture) that you have rested long enough and it’s time to get busy!

