

Christmas Gift Boxes and School Supplies for Children In Rural Areas of Central America and the Caribbean 2026 Information Sheet

Our Shoebox Ministry Targets Children 2-12 years of age.

Boxes MUST BE Marked: Girl or Boy and the Age (Age Range) of the Child appropriate for the shoe box contents. AGE RANGE CANNOT EXCEED 2 YEARS. As an example, 5-7yrs or 8-10yrs Please ensure the items in the Christmas Shoe box are Age Appropriate. As an example, toys with small parts would not be appropriate item for a child under 4 years old (choking hazard). Clothing should be the correct size. Our Size Chart is Available on the Website and is very helpful. Please Do Not include Adult or Junior Size Clothing. Please Do Not Include Clothing Smaller Than 3T.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We are now including REQUESTED school supplies for our missionaries. The school year starts in January/February for countries that participate in the Christmas Shoebox Ministry. School supplies go on sale in Mid-July through mid-August here. We have some churches on board with donating school supplies and/or funds for school supplies that are packed and shipped along with the Christmas Shoeboxes. This was an unmet need we discovered during the latter part of the pandemic.

How it works:

- Missionaries provide a separate request document for school supplies the warehouse creates a list of the requested school supplies.
- Churches, classes or individuals contact the warehouse for the list of needed supplies.
- Churches collect the requested supplies or provide funds to the warehouse to buy the requested supplies in bulk.
- The school supplies are then packed in separate boxes that go with the Christmas Shoebox shipment.

If you would like more information on the School Supply Ministry please contact Cindy Sandlin at csandlinddw@gmail.com

Below are items to be included in the Christmas Shoe Box.

- 1 pair of Flip Flops-NEW. (See Size Chart)
- 1-2 pair Underwear-NEW. (See Size Chart)
- 1 pair of Shorts & 1 Tee-shirt. Boys or Girls (2-7 years old) OR
A Dress with Shorts (Girls 2-7 years old)
- 1 Training Bra with a Shirt OR Shorts (Girls 8-12yrs) (See Size Chart)
If you can include both, PLEASE DO SO.
- 1 pair of Shorts OR a T Shirt (Boys 8-12 yrs.)
If you can include both, PLEASE DO SO.
- 1 Wash Cloth-NEW

Below are items to be included in the Christmas Shoe Box Continued:

1 Toothbrush NEW IN ORIGINAL PACKAGE
1 Comb (large teeth)-NEW
Small pack of crayons or colored pencils 8-12 count-NEW
The Nativity Story Coloring Book supplied by the warehouse.

In addition to the above items please include 4-6 (at a minimum) of items (or similar items) as listed below to FILL THE BOX. ALL ITEMS BELOW ARE TO BE NEW. NO USED ITEMS

1-2 pair of socks	Jump Rope (5 years and older)
One Small Hand Mirror	Play Jewelry 2 to 4 items (4-7 year old girls)
Hot Wheel/Matchbox Cars	Play Dough 2 large cans or 3-4 small/mini (3-8years)
Small Dolls	Sewing Kit (8 years and older)
Small Sport Ball	Fishing Kit (8 years and older)
Small Stuffed Animal	Bracelet Kit (8 years and older)
Yoyo (Duncan brand (7-12 years)	Nail Grooming Kit (12 year olds)
20-50 MARBLES WITH 1-2 SHOOTER MARBLES (8 years and older)	
Small Hard Rubber Balls (5 years and older 2-3 in small bag)	
Ponytail Holders, Barrettes etc. (10-12 in a small plastic bag).	
6 Pencils, Pencil Sharpener, SMALL NOTE BOOK 3x5 to 5x7 INCH (7 years and older)	
NO LOOSE LEAF PAPER.	
ONE Child Development or Educational Card Game (2-6 years) as long as English is not required.	

It is beneficial to purchase items in package quantities such as: underwear, socks, crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, hair ties/ barrettes etc. to share. You can ask individuals in your group/class to buy an item packaged in quantities, single items (shorts and T shirts) can be bought by others and have some folks donated the shipping cost. Shoe box assembly can then be done at a central location. That way everyone participates and the costs are typically less than doing a single box. Everything is more expensive these days, this is a way to minimize an individuals or family's financial burden while maximizing participation in the ministry!

GENTLY USED, CLEAN CLOTHING IS ACCEPTABLE (EXCLUDING Underwear, Socks and Flip Flops THESE ITEMS ARE TO BE NEW) Please use the following guideline: If you would not give the item in question Wrapped As A GIFT TO YOUR CHILD, GRANDCHILD or BEST FRIENDS CHILD THEN PLEASE DON'T INCLUDE THE ITEM IN YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **NO TOOTH PASTE**
- **NO TOYS THAT REQUIRE BATTERIES**
- **NO FULL SIZE SPIRAL OR BONDED NOTE BOOKS IN THE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES.**
- **NO Books, Games, Activities in English. The children are not necessarily taught English. English may not be spoken in the Home or at School**
- **NO SWIM SUITS, NO LONG SLEEVE, NO LONG PANTS, NO PAJAMAS**
- **NO FOOD, CANDY, CHEWING GUM OF ANY KIND**
- **NO Liquids of Any Kind. No Shampoo, Hand Sanitizer, Lotion Etc.**
- **NO Chapstick, Make Up, Nail Polish**
- **NO TOYS THAT CONTAIN LIQUID OR GEL SUCH AS BALLS WITH SUSPENDED GLITTER OR SPARKLES.**
- **NO Slime, Silly Putty, Kinetic Sand, Molding Clay.**
- **NO off Brand Play Dough. PLAY DOUGH MUST BE NAME BRAND**
- **NO Toy Guns, Weapons, Soldiers, NO WAR TOYS**
- **NO Playing Cards, NO Dominos (Can be used for gambling)**
- **NO Sport Cards or Collection Cards of Any Kind**
- **NO Balloons, Punching Balls. These are Choking Hazards for Young Children**
- **One Child development and educational card game is Acceptable. As long English is not required.**
- **20 TO 50 marbles with 1or 2 shooter marbles are Acceptable. NO SMALL BAGS OF 5-10 MARBLES**

The Disaster Relief Warehouse Furnishes: The Shoe Boxes and Nativity Scene Artwork Sticker to help decorate the shoe box. The coloring book can be printed from the website: www.umdisasterwarehouse.com. The warehouse can ship these items to your church at a cost. Please contact the warehouse at 256-341-9961 or email Christmasshoeboxes@gmail.com for more information.

Please fill complete filling each shoe box you submit. Please DO NOT OVER FILL. If the shoe box is bulging, we can't pack the shipping case correctly and the box will have to be opened and repacked. Please Do Not UNDER FILL THE SHOE BOX. An under filled box means one child will only get one or two things, while his/her brother/sister, friend gets a full box. This can cause very hurt feelings in the home/school for the children.

Please Note:

Printed on the sides of the shoe boxes IS THE MANIFEST FORM. Please fill out with a PEN indicating whether the box is for a boy or girl and the Age (Age Range). The Customs Declaration Form is printed on the other side of the box. It MUST BE marked Boy or Girl and

With the Child's Age, Age Range. YOU MUST INCLUDE AN ACCURATE LIST OF ITEMS IN YOUR SHOE BOX INCLUDING THE QUANTITY OF EACH ITEM

- (1) You may decorate the outside of the boxes, PLEASE DO NOT COVER UP THE CUSTOMS FORMS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BOX. DO NOT PUT WRAPPING PAPER ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BOX OR TISSUE PAPER IN THE BOX**
- (2) Please Put ONE Nativity Scene Artwork Sticker ON ONE END OF THE SHOE BOX. DO NOT PUT THE STICKER ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE SHOE BOX. DO NOT PUT THE NATIVITY ARTWORK STICKER IN THE SHOE BOX. THIS IS NOT A GIFT FOR THE CHILD.**
- (3) Please close your shoe box with CLEAR PACKING TAPE DO NOT INTERWEAVE THE TOP OR BOTTOM FLAPS OF THE BOX.**

A \$6.00 DONATION PER SHOE BOX IS NEEDED. These funds are used to pay expenses for shipment of the shoe boxes and school supplies as well as expenses incurred by missionary in getting the shoe boxes to the children, Please be sure to send the \$6.00 donation per shoe box. PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY MONEY IN THE SHOE BOXES!

Please send one check for your group or church. Please make the check payable to the Disaster Relief Warehouse "Christmas Shoe Box Ministry" on the memo line. The check can be mailed or brought to the warehouse. Mail address for checks:

Disaster Relief Warehouse, PO Box 1133 Decatur, AL 35602: Completed Shoe Boxes for 2026 are to be returned to the Decatur AL warehouse 8/27/2026 thru 9/24/2026. If you are using a HUB location, you must contact that HUB representative and work with their schedule. REMEMBER COMPLETED SHOE BOXES CAN BE RETURNED ANY TIME TO THE WAREHOUSE AS THE MINISTRY IS YEAR ROUND. Be sure to call OR email to schedule a delivery date and time. If your church needs assistance in returning the completed shoe boxes to the Decatur AL warehouse please contact us at 256-341-9961 or email Christmasshoeboxes@gmail.com.

Deadlines

Thursday September 24th Again, the Shoe box Ministry is year round. Shoe boxes are due back at the Decatur AL warehouse no later than Thursday September 24th for 2026 shipments

There are a few Christmas Shoe Box HUB's (Distribution and Collections Points) available via email. Please contact us at Christmasshoeboxes@gmail.com or 256-341-9961 for information on a possible location near you