



St. Gregory's "Seventeenth Annual Christmas Shoebox Campaign"

Dear Members of St. Gregory the Great Church.

We are about to begin our Seventeenth Christmas Shoebox Campaign for Canadian Food For Children. Since we began in 2002 over 8,993 Christmas gifts have been sent by our parish to Dr. Simone and his wife Joan. From their depot in Mississauga they have delivered them to children in Central America, South America, Africa, the Philippines and other third world countries. So many families have benefited in the past from your generosity. For some this would have been the only Christmas gift they received. The shoeboxes will be at the entrances to the church the weekends of October 12th and 13th. And again October 19th and 20th. They are to be returned the weekends of October 26th and 27st and November 2nd and 3rd.

We will be packing them during the day on November 4th and 5th. They will then be shipped by truck to Mississauga on November 10th. Dr. Simone will then ship them within days to a country in need.

If you would like to volunteer to help us sort during November 4th and 5th, please call Mary Oberle at 519-622-3098.

Here are some ideas for filling the shoeboxes. Games, dolls, new stuffed toys, balls, school/craft supplies, skipping ropes, stickers, marbles, and solar calculators are fun items. Clothing could be shirts, tops, underwear, and socks. Food items such as granola bars, wrapped candy, baby food in plastic jars or foil pouches and baby cereal. Always needed are face cloths, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes and other toiletries. Please put any strong smelling soap or anything that might leak in a zip-lock bag.

Please do not include any battery operated toys or games or any toys depicting war or violence.

When wrapping your shoebox it is necessary to wrap the top and bottom separately and close it with an elastic band. This will ensure that if it is inspected by custom officers at a border that the wrapping will not be torn. Please feel free to include a note to the child and even a picture of your family. On the outside of the box please place a tag telling us the gender and the age of the child - infant to 15 years.

Thank you in advance and have an enjoyable time filling your shoebox. May God bless you for sharing with others.

Mary & Norb Oberle