



Christmas Shoebox



Change a child's world with a gift of love.

Dear Friends of GVCM,

Our Christmas Shoe Box tradition, which engages our American friends with the Haitian children, is in full swing. Last October, was fantastic when we began receiving boxes from many churches and friends to our free warehouse space in Miami.

This has been a marvelous effort that has engaged many of your own children. With a smile, they go to the store to fill up those boxes with gifts, knowing that there is more blessing in giving than in receiving. The Haitian children, throughout all the villages we visited, mirrored those radiant smiles as they received those gifts of love. Our joy and contentment resides in the truth that this opportunity creates an occasion for families, churches and friends to come together as one and do something that has such an eternal impact on both sides of the ocean.

This is our time to thank you for such a successful event which could never be possible without your help. Thousands of children were blessed, and every shoe box had the imprint of your love or the love of the members of your church on them. We are always filled with so much emotion, as we observe the smiles from those cute, little faces as they receive your gifts of love. The teams that came to Haiti to pass out gifts do what you would have done, and that is to let the children see Christ through them. I am hoping that this coming Christmas you might join a team and accompany your boxes to help deliver them. Please contact our Christmas Shoebox coordinator, Christy Ausley (christy@chccweb.org) and our Trip coordinator, Amber Bachelier (tripsgvcm@gmail.com), for trip scheduling. You can also go to the GVCM website (www.gvcm.org) or (www.christmasshoebox.com) and choose your dates if you would like to lead a team on your own and Amber will contact you. We would like to do more each year so we will be able to bless more children. With yours and your churches' involvement, we can touch many more precious lives.

I love people who have a passion for the King, and you do have a passion for our King. From either the giving or the receiving end, let us continue to let our children see this passion. They will see this love and grow up to be lovers of the King as well. It is encouraging to see God bringing His people to work together even from such a distance for a greater cause and the accomplishment of His purpose. Let us keep this yearly tradition on both sides of the ocean and make Christmas something that reminds the children that He came because He loves them too.

If you would like pictures of the last distribution, please let us know and we will send them to you.

Matthew 25:40

"The King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of **these** brothers of Mine, even the **least** of them, you did it to Me."

May He continue to shower your life with His rain of love.

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GVCM Christmas Shoebox Program

Introduction

Global Vision Citadel Ministries is an independent Christian mission organization serving the people of Haiti in many different ways. We are not directly associated with any specific church or denomination. GVCM partners with a wide variety of churches and organizations across the United States. One of the many ways we serve the people in Haiti is through Christmas Shoeboxes.

Implementing a Christmas Shoebox program in your church, school or organization is simple, yet it is so meaningful to the children of Haiti. The groups we have worked with in the past have been incredibly supportive, and they have had very high levels of participation. In the end, the program has been a blessing to everyone involved!

We hope that this packet contains everything you need to know to join us in our mission this year. But please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We want to help make this a very meaningful outreach program for your group...one we hope you would want to participate in year after year!

Your Christmas Shoeboxes will be delivered to the children of GVCM's churches and schools throughout the rural areas of Haiti. Thousands of children, many of whom have never received a gift, have been blessed by this program throughout the years.

The Christmas Shoeboxes are a blessing in and of themselves and are not incorporated into any programs or presentations. They are given in love simply to see the joy on the faces of these children, whose circumstances give them so little to smile about.

Implementing the Program

Participating in this program could not be easier:

- Order your shoeboxes and shipping cartons
- Distribute shoeboxes to your group or organization
- Collect the shoeboxes after they are filled
- Pack and ship the shoeboxes to GVCM

Detailed instructions follow to help you plan and implement this program in your group. We want to make your Christmas Shoebox program a simple success, so please don't hesitate to call or email if we can help in any way.



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Order Shoeboxes

Company Name: Uline – Shipping Supply Specialists
Website: www.uline.com
Phone: 1-800-958-5463

Item Number	Description	Notes	Price
S-8266	Shoebox 12x6x4 "Indestructo"	100	\$78.00
S-4930	Shipping Carton – 26x26x26 275#DW	5	\$39.10

(Each shipping carton holds 48 shoeboxes)

If you anticipate using a smaller number of boxes, you have a couple of options. You can either contact another area church or organization to partner with you or contact ULine about the possibility of purchasing a lesser quantity. Either option you choose, please contact me because I would love to assist you in making your shoebox collection a success. Whether you fill 200 boxes or 20, we appreciate your efforts and love for the children of Haiti!

Distribute Shoeboxes

We have enclosed a "[Christmas Shoebox Flyer](#)" for you to print or email to your workplace, church, or organization. It explains everything they need to know to participate, including step by step instructions and suggested items to place in the shoeboxes.

On the date you have set, simply set up a workstation to distribute the shoeboxes to those who are interested in changing the life of a child. We suggest collecting the minimum \$10.00 shipping fee per box at the time they pick up their box or boxes. The \$10.00 per box charge covers most of the shipping costs. All of the money sent with the shoeboxes is spent on shipping costs and Haitian delivery charges.

Collecting Shoeboxes

On the date that has been set by GVCM, set up a table to collect the filled shoeboxes. If you have not collected a minimum of \$10.00 per box shipping donation, you must do so at this time.



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Pack the Shoeboxes

Before packing the shoeboxes in their shipping containers, please review the boxes for:

- Inappropriate items
- Used items
- Boxes that are too full (items can be added to boxes that are less full)
- If a large bag of candy is filling a single box, divide it up between boxes
- Use the label template provided to print labels for the ends of the boxes. Place the label on the box so that you can pack accordingly and those distributing can easily see who the box is designed for.

Once boxes have been examined, they should be packaged according to gender to make distribution easier in Haiti.

Ship the Shoeboxes

Once the shoeboxes are packed into their shipping cartons, the cartons should be sent to (please make sure you write GVCM on the boxes addressed to):

The Laparkan's Emergency Response Center
3775 NW 77 Street
Miami, FL 33147
Phone: 305-836-4393

Please instruct driver to use the NW 75 street entrance.

Shipping is by far the most expensive part of this project. The flyer asks each person to include a minimum of \$10.00 for shipping their shoebox, and this should cover the costs involved. You will use these funds to ship the cartons. Send any remaining funds to the GVCM Financial Officer at the address below, for use to pay any remaining shipping, customs charges and transportation to the main distribution site in Haiti.

GVCM Financial Officer
PO Box 75158
Wichita, KS 67275

What Happens After That?

Our volunteers will pack the shipping boxes into large containers that will be sent via cargo ship to the port in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's Capital. Our field personnel take the shipments through customs inspection and pay the tariffs and customs charges. GVCM personnel and mission teams will move the boxes from the shipping containers into trucks to move to our facilities for storage. The mission teams will take a series of trips to the remote Haitian villages over a week or so to deliver the shoeboxes to the children at our churches and schools.



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We would encourage you to plan for the members of your group to come to Haiti on a mission trip to help distribute shoeboxes with us! Being able to bring back photos, video, and stories help your entire group experience the joy of this ministry is unimaginable. Seeing the Haitian children playing with the toys and other gifts that they packed in shoeboxes with their own hands makes this a real and meaningful gift for them. We have already made plans with mission teams to travel to Haiti through August to deliver boxes, but would love for you to join us on a trip! If you are interested, please contact us!

Once teams begin to return to the states, we will post photos on our website of the beautiful children and their excited faces as they open the gifts that have been lovingly sent to them.

The Schedule

The boxes must arrive in Florida by the end of October at the latest. There is no problem sending the boxes even earlier if you are able to coordinate this effort with your group. These are the suggested dates of your Shoebox program:

- September-Promote the shoebox program
- September 25-October 16th-Distribute the shoeboxes
- October 17-November 20th-Collect the shoeboxes
- By November 30th-Ship to Laparkan-GVCM Warehouse in Miami at:
3775 NW 77 Street, Miami, FL 33147.

This is a general suggestion about the schedule, but the earlier you can ship to GVCM, the better. In order for the shoeboxes to be transported to Haiti and distributed to the remote villages, we must have them on the boat and out of Florida by early June.

Please help us make sure that every child in our Haitian churches and schools receives a gift, so spread the word and get everyone you know involved!



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ORGANIZING THE PROCESS

Thank you so much for volunteering to coordinate the program at your church or organization. It is not hard, but does take some time, so you may want to recruit some people to help you. Here is a step by step of what you will need to do.

Planning and ordering your boxes

- Estimate how many shoe boxes you will need..
- Figure out how many big shipping cartons you will need. Each carton holds 48 shoe boxes, so just divide and round up.
- Once you have these numbers just call or email ULine Shipping Supply Specialists at www.uline.com or 1-800-957-5463. The order can be big and heavy, so it is best to have them delivered right to the site of distribution. (more shoebox ordering info is in the coordinator packet)

The shoe boxes arrive! Now you will gather supplies to make shoebox “kits”, which will include the shoe box and instruction sheet, all held together with a rubber band.

- You will need **strapping tape** for the big cartons. Make sure they are taped well, with several strips of 2” tape, since the cartons can be heavy.

Handing out the shoe boxes

- Talk to your church or organization as soon as possible about the dates to hand out and collect them. It works best to hand out shoe boxes on two consecutive dates, and collect them on the third.
- Hand out shoe boxes at every opportunity.
- You can expect the participant to give the minimum \$10.00 per box shipping cost at the time you hand out the shoeboxes or at the time of collection. Either way, don't forget to collect it, this will cover the cost of shipping the cartons to Haiti.

Sorting the shoeboxes

This is very important to the team handing out the shoe boxes in Haiti. Once the cartons leave your group, the next time they will be opened will be at the church or school in Haiti. Everything you can do to organize the shoe boxes and make them easy for the team to hand out will be very much appreciated!

- Gather your volunteers
- Sort all the shoeboxes into piles by Boy, Girl and Age based on the labels.
- Load the shoeboxes into the cartons as follows (don't worry, this is much harder to describe than it is to do):
 - Bottom layer: age 11 & older, Boys on the left, Girls on the right
 - Next layer: age 8 -10, Boys on the left, Girls on the right



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- Next layer: age 5-7, Boys on the left, Girls on the right
 - Next layer: age 5-7, Boys on the left, Girls on the right
 - Next layer: age 2-4, Boys on the left, Girls on the right
 - Top layer: age 2-4, Boys on the left, Girls on the right
- If you run out of a certain type of shoe box, just fill in the spot with the next type and keep going until the carton is full. Once all the shoeboxes are packed, fill the cartons all the way to the top with empty shoeboxes to keep them from crushing if they end up on the bottom of a stack during shipping.
 - You will end up with cartons packed like this (when viewed from the side):

Boy 2-4	Boy 2-4	Girl 2-4	Girl 2-4
Boy 2-4	Boy 2-4	Girl 2-4	Girl 2-4
Boy 5-7	Boy 5-7	Girl 5-7	Girl 5-7
Boy 5-7	Boy 5-7	Girl 5-7	Girl 5-7
Boy 8-10	Boy 8-10	Girl 8-10	Girl 8-10
Boy 11 & Older	Boy 11 & Older	Girl 11 & Older	Girl 11 & Older

- With the cartons packed this way, the team in Haiti will be able to just make a line of cartons with a team member behind each one. They will ask the Pastor of the church to bring the children to the front, starting with the youngest and moving on to the oldest. As they hand out shoe boxes, they will always have the right kind of shoe box right on top, ready to hand out to the next child.
- Seal the boxes with strapping tape.
- If the shipping address has not been provided, please contact your GVCN contact for the address where to ship the carton.

Money

- You should use some of the money to pay for the supplies and shipping charges. It is best to save your receipts as you purchase supplies to give to the person who would reimburse you.
- Then, you should mail the remaining funds to:

GVCN
PO Box 75158
Wichita, Kansas 67275



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- GVCM will use the remaining money to ship the shoe boxes to Haiti, pay the customs charges in Haiti, and cover the costs of delivering them to the remote churches in Haiti.

You made it! Thank you for all your hard work and I am so grateful for your perseverance!

Thank you for your serving heart,
GVCM Ministries

REMEMBER TO [PRINT THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX FLYER](#) TO GIVE TO THOSE WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING!