

As a voluntary charity we are keen to spend as little as possible in this country so we can spend more in Moldova. Over the years we have been very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of generous landlords who have allowed us to use our store with no rent. This obviously saves us a great deal of money.

Once everything has been sorted and packed we arrange for the truck to be loaded – This is not an easy task. Our volunteers come after work and as everything has to be carried by hand from the store to the truck, everyone is exhausted by the end of the night. These enormous articulated lorries take a huge amount to fill!

Seeing a truck crammed full of these Christmas boxes is so gratifying, every box represents a very happy child, Granny or Grandpa. It is so wonderful to send such a valuable truck filled with thousands of Christmas boxes.

Please do support us with this appeal



WHY WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE DO -

Christian Response is proud to be a totally voluntary charity whose roots go back to 1990. Our Christmas shoebox appeal is in addition to the Soup Kitchens, medical and educational projects, family support etc. we provide each year. We invite people to pack a shoebox with new items suitable for a child or an adult, or even fill a much bigger box for a complete family.

A REMINDER

Once there is no room for anything else in the box please seal it, wrap it in Christmas Paper and mark very clearly on the outside "Boy," "Girl" or "Family" with a suggested age range where applicable, for example, GIRL age 4 to 7 or BOY age 12 to 15., or "Family" "Granny" or "Grandpa".

Remember

We will need all the receive all the shoeboxes at our store before the end of November at the very latest.

christian
response
to
eastern
europe



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

*Little Maria is very excited that the
Christmas Truck is in its way.*



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Giving love and new hope in a shoebox. What it means and how to do it.

Please, for one moment, imagine you are a young child from a very poor family in Moldova. For most there is very little prospect of any Christmas present at all.

So imagine the sheer excitement and joy of receiving not just one present but a boxful. This is what it means to receive a Christmas shoebox.

For children in one of our Soup Kitchens, Christmas is even more special – not only is there a nutritious meal but Father Christmas appears and starts to give out the beautifully wrapped Christmas boxes. Then excitedly, the children carefully open the lids to reveal a box bursting with lots of lovely new things; some practical, some to play with, some to wear. The joy, the excitement, is overwhelming.

Any present is, of course, most welcome but the items that you put in a shoebox do have to be new. It is also important to try and fill the shoebox. We realise that this can be expensive – so we are happy to encourage children or adults, friends and neighbours to get together to fill a small or large box. The children and their families in Moldova – one of the poorest and deprived areas of Europe - live such grim lives and so their appreciation is beyond words. Your gift will reflect that true Christmas spirit where we think of others, at least for once in the year.

To the poor of Moldova, Christmas Shoeboxes are also strong symbols of love and hope - and evidence that people in other parts of the world do care.



As we mentioned earlier, the gifts for a Christmas shoebox do need to be new and non-perishable. You may have in mind things you would like to send but below we list a range of items that are particularly useful.

All we ask is that your Christmas box is wrapped in Christmas paper, marked clearly for a girl or boy with suggested age ranges, a family or even a granny or grideas and maybe a photo and maybe a photo inside the box, so much the better, (they would love to know who sent them this wonderful gift).

So here are just a few gift ideas:

For any age you could consider

Hats	Gloves	Socks / Tights
Underwear	Tee Shirts	Cuddly toy
Tooth Paste	Tooth Brush	Shampoo
Hairbrush	Soap / Shower Gel	Deodorant
Calculator	Cheap watch	Jigsaw puzzles
Chocolates	Sweets	Biscuits
Paints boxes	Crayons	Colouring books
Pencils	Exercise books	Calculator

For Girls

Dresses
Tights
Dolls
Friendship bracelets
Beads
Craft items
Glow Sticks
Hair Clips and slides
Lip gloss
Purse
Jewellery

For older ladies

Hand cream
Head Scarves
Perfume

For Boys

Lego bricks
Toy cars
Wallet
Torch
Glow Sticks
Airfix type models
Magnifying glass

For older boys

Pen knife
Razor / shaver
Shaving cream

For older gentlemen

Aftershave
Mini tools
Coffee



While new items go into the shoeboxes, we are still keen to accept good quality second-hand clothing and toys (which should be in bags or boxes and marked as such please) as these can also go on the large truck which heads out of our store for Moldova in early December.

The sorting and storing of all these goods is a very time-consuming exercise we would need everything in our depot before the end of November.

Most of our wonderful volunteers come after work and the Rotary Club of Dawlish Water always lends a hand by collecting most of the shoeboxes. Everything has to be carried by hand from the store to the truck, exhausting but rewarding work as these enormous articulated lorries are packed absolutely full! It is so fantastic to send such a valuable truck filled with thousands of Christmas boxes. A truck crammed with all of these lovely Christmas boxes represents a very happy child, family, granny or grandpa with every single box.

Incidentally, we collect items for our humanitarian aid trucks throughout the year and aim to send about three trucks every year.

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