

October 15, 2023

Thank you for your interest in participating in our **7th annual** shoebox drive for our Dominican Republic mission's children. The towns have been sharing that the kids are so excited and grateful for their shoeboxes. These will be delivered between Christmas 2023 and 3 Kings Day 2024. We hope to send over 700 boxes to 6 communities this year. See the link below for previous years' pictures and videos <https://culturemissions.org/index.php/three-king-shoe-boxes/>

What to do:

- Contact Evelyn so she can pair you with a child (you will be given name, age, gender and town but **let me know if you want a particular age or gender**)
- Go to the dollar store and buy a plastic shoebox
- Please use only **shoe size** plastic boxes (and **not boot size** for some of my ambitious friends☺); the dollar store sells these in all colors as well as Walmart, Target, etc.
- Fill your shoebox with suggested items below and decorate as you wish but do not wrap
- **Tape or write your child's name, age and town on the shoebox**
- Put a few rubber bands around the shoebox to prevent it from opening
- Bring the filled shoebox to Evelyn along with **\$5.00/box to help with shipping costs**
- If you do not want to fill a shoebox but want to support this effort, we also welcome monetary donations, empty shoeboxes, gently used summer clothing, diapers and baby supplies, or other supplies for the shoeboxes
- Consider also giving a nonperishable canned or food item such as rice, dry beans, cereal, flour, tuna fish, etc. (not in the shoebox) which we will send in separate boxes to each town
- The official language of the islands is Spanish
- Remember to pray for these children and send a special note from you or your family
- **The shoeboxes will be due November 5th**
- **On November 19th, we welcome you to Culture Life Church from 9:30 am to 1 pm to help sort the shoeboxes and fill the shipping boxes (508 Woodbury Turnersville Rd, Blackwood, NJ 08012)**

Recommended items to pack in your shoebox:

- clothing and accessories – summer clothes, socks, hair bows, underwear, hats, flip flops (I recommend buying clothes one size up from the child's age; eg. 6 yo girl, 7-8 size clothes)
- school supplies – pencils, pens, scissors, crayons, markers, erasers, calculators
- toys – soccer ball with pump, doll, stuffed animal, baseball, football, playing cards, jump rope
- make-your-own crafts – add your personal touch
- non-liquid hygiene items – bar soap, toothbrush, powder, deodorant
- candy – caramels, taffy, gummy bears, lollipops, gum, raisins
- snacks – pretzels, popcorn, cookies, crackers

Items that should not be included in your shoebox:

- winter clothes
- chocolate or perishable food
- out-of-date food items – make sure that the expiration date is at least six months after 11/2023
- liquids or lotions – these can spill and ruin other items
- medications or vitamins
- breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers
- aerosol cans

- ✚ **Evelyn Rodriguez**
- ✚ evelyn@culturemissions.org
- ✚ 856-340-0584 for phone call or text

Thank you for your support and looking forward to another successful shoebox drive!

Pictures will be added to the website at the end of January 2024