



# Volunteer Information

We are praying that your service at the Processing Center is a blessing to you and your group. The information below will help prepare you for your time. Please don't hesitate to call (800) 442-9120 if you have additional questions prior to your visit.

## Before you arrive:

- Prayer is the foundation of all that we do through Operation Christmas Child, and our desire is for every detail of the project to be covered in prayer. Included in this information packet is a devotional written especially for Operation Christmas Child Processing Center volunteers. We encourage you and your group to read through this together and spend time in prayer as you prepare for your experience at the Processing Center. There will also be opportunities available during your scheduled time at the Processing Center to make use of the on-site Prayer Room.
- All volunteers must be **at least 13 years of age**, regardless of what grade the student is in. Due to the warehouse environment, we can allow **NO EXCEPTIONS**. At least one chaperone for every four youth is required. The primary responsibility of a chaperone is to ensure the safety and appropriate behavior of your youth. For the safety of all volunteers in the warehouse, Processing Center staff reserve the right to ask any group not acting in accordance with safety procedures and outlined policies to leave the building at any time.
- Our Processing Centers are set up in warehouses, so please make proper provisions to be comfortably and appropriately dressed for this environment. It is best to be prepared with closed-toe shoes appropriate for standing, and warm, layered, casual clothes as the temperature inside can vary.
- Our greatest need continues to be more shoe box gifts to reach even more children. If your group has packed more shoe box gifts since National Collection Week, please bring them with you to the Processing Center. We have a Collection Center set up at the warehouse.
- If you believe your group numbers may increase, please check availability by calling us at 1-800-442-9120. If your group size decreases, please notify us so these spaces may be made available to volunteers on our waiting list.

## At the Processing Center:

- Every volunteer in the Processing Center plays an integral role in the ministry of Operation Christmas Child, ensuring the integrity and successful delivery of the gifts. Volunteers in the Processing Center form teams and perform all the tasks necessary to process the shoe boxes at one location. Teams are responsible for removing financial contributions from the shoe boxes, inspecting the gifts, sorting inappropriate items, working with filler items, separating boxes by age and gender, and cartonizing. Because of the fast-paced environment of the warehouse, you may be asked to do different tasks. ***We appreciate your flexibility.***
- We want to properly equip all volunteers for their service, so an orientation session is provided to all individuals and groups each season they serve. These sessions are conducted at the Processing Center when you arrive for your initial visit.
- For your safety, MP3 players, iPods, and other electronic devices that require headphones are not permitted in the Processing Center. We are unable to provide a place to store any valuables or personal items in the warehouse, and we cannot be responsible for damage or loss resulting from these items remaining in common areas.
- You are welcome to take breaks as needed during your time with us. There is a break area in the Processing Center with vending machines and refrigerators to store your meals and snacks. Ice is not provided; however, you may bring your own coolers. All food and drinks must remain inside the break area. Please be advised that tobacco products are not allowed on the property.



# Beautiful Feet

*"As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"*

Romans 10:15b, NIV

Have you ever thought of your feet as beautiful? God tells us they are! According to the Bible, *beautiful* indicates a person or object is pleasing and a source of joy. This word also describes acts that are good and loving. Paul employed *beautiful* to mean "seasonable" or "appropriate to its time," and therefore, lovely. Beautiful feet belong to people who are used in God's special season to bring the life-changing message of Good News to those waiting to receive it.

Think of it. God allows *us* to participate in His grand redemptive plan! We have an unparalleled opportunity to help carry the Gospel worldwide. Through the shoe box gifts collected across the country, we are able to go to the ends of the earth in the Name of Jesus, all to the glory of God and the building of His kingdom. The Lord wants to use your feet (and hands, too) during this processing season to bring His love, joy, and salvation to children and families, communities, and nations.

One example can be found in the long-term impact of Operation Christmas Child in Indonesia. This project has not only touched the little ones, but also changed communities and revived churches. Followers of Jesus are widely persecuted in Indonesia, but the distribution of Operation Christmas Child gift boxes has changed the way some people perceive Christianity and has built bridges of trust.

Beautiful reconciliations have occurred as a result of Good News brought by beautiful feet. Churches are now growing and denominations are knit together by relationships of love. Indonesian believers earnestly pray that Operation Christmas Child will continue to open doors into closed areas and bring the nationwide transformation for which they yearn. Prayer and love packed into the boxes, along with other gifts, can penetrate even the most hostile villages and cities. God will make all things beautiful in His time.

This Samaritan's Purse project changes lives locally as well as globally. We never take for granted the testimonies of salvation, answered prayer, encouragement, freedom, and forgiveness at our Processing Centers in the United States. Each year, God moves powerfully and personally in the lives of volunteers and staff as a result of their involvement with the project. A chaplain in one of our facilities explains why: "Everyone involved in every step of transporting and processing each shoe box is lifted in prayer."

When you consider your part in the cast of thousands who serve at the Processing Center, remember it is much more than inspecting, packing, and loading boxes. God is using your beautiful feet to make an eternal difference in hearts around the world and right here at home.