

# Shoebox Christmas Project

Shoebox Christmas is a program that provides Christmas gifts to children in need in the Dakotas and Minnesota. In 2014, 6,445 gifts were donated and distributed in North and South Dakota and Minnesota. Specific areas include, the Crow Creek and Pine Ridge reservations, and the Enemy Swim School in South Dakota, the Spirit Lake Nation and Turtle Mountain reservations, and three homeless shelters in North Dakota, and the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota.

## What is in a shoebox?



**Love!** Shoebox Christmas gifts are built from love for children that might not otherwise get a Christmas gift. On the reservation, up to 70 % of the children would not get a Christmas gift if not for the Shoebox Christmas Gift program and your generosity! To start, wrap the bottom and top of the box separately (so we can insert

the story of the birth of Jesus. Add gifts, place a rubber band around the box and top, then put the age group and gender of the child on top of the box. You have just built a box of love. We are looking for the following age groups. Infant, Toddler, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13 and up. Please only add new toys and please don't put any clothing except the hats/gloves or mittens in the boxes.

Wrapped boxes are available in the Gathering Space for your convenience or you may choose to donate items toward a box.

Please return all shoeboxes by  
Wednesday, November 18, 2015



Thank you for being a part of this wonderful ministry!

## Suggestions:

**Infants**—baby powder, bibs, bottles, blankets and infant toys

**Ages 2-7**—age appropriate educational items, reading, coloring, & painting books, crayons, cars, watercolor paints or markers, puzzles, stuffed animals, hair accessories, hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, trucks, Legos, construction toys, & games.

**Ages 8-Youth**—electronic handheld game toys, watches, games puzzles, flashlights, reading books, hats, gloves, purses, makeup, nail polishes, hair items. Perfume, bath products.



Shoebox Christmas story—

—On a trip to a 6th grade class in a school on the reservation I watched one young man open his gift. When he opened his box, there on top was the story of Jesus' birth. Each Shoebox Christmas Gift gets a story of Jesus' birth. He looked at it and placed it next to his box. He then reached in and pulled out a stocking cap and a pair of gloves and placed them beside his box. He picked out the four hot wheel cars and played with them for a minute and then placed them beside his box. He pulled out a coloring book and crayons, and some other small toys and placed them in the growing pile beside his box. He then started pulling out all the candy and popped a tootsie roll in his mouth and placed the other candy in his pile. His teacher told them they could have one piece of candy. He looked in and saw the very last gift laying on the bottom of his box. He reached in and took it out, showed it to his buddy and exclaimed: "Now I don't have to share with my brother"! This young man pulled an .88 cent toothbrush out of his box. I was heartbroken that a child would be that excited about a toothbrush. Something that many of us take for granted. Later during the day, I was speaking with the principle and he related that for 70 percent of these children, this would be the only gift they received for Christmas.

For more Shoebox Christmas stories and information, please visit [www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org](http://www.spiritlakeministrycenter.org)

For questions, please contact Mike & Libby Flowers at [Childharvest@msn.com](mailto:Childharvest@msn.com)

Donations can be mailed to: Spirit Lake Ministry Center, 3365 81st Av NE, Sheyenne ND 58374