

Orphaned by Poverty

Your boxes are all distributed to Central and Eastern European Countries. There, because of tradition from the former Eastern Block, many parents were encouraged to put their children into a State run Institution or Orphanage if you could not afford to look after them. According to 'Save the Children', 98% in Institutions/Orphanages in the countries we visit have at least one parent alive. UN figures show that these children have a likelihood of suffering stunted growth, behavioural problems, lower IQ, and a higher risk of abuse if disabled.

Price of the Boxes

These are the price bands, with minimum order unchanged at 25 boxes.

25 to 99 boxes £2 per box.	100 to 199 boxes £1.50 per box.
200 to 299 boxes £1.20 per box.	300 to 499 boxes £1.00 per box.
500 to 999 boxes £0.90 per box.	1,000 plus boxes £0.85 per box.

Donations Welcome

We continue to welcome any donations towards our increasing transport costs or helping sponsor individual schools. Please make your cheque payable to: 'Rotary Shoebox Scheme' and send to: RIBI Shoebox, PO Box 87, Lymm, WA13 9WU, marking it as a donation.

Please Note our Website

We changed our website address at the end of last year. The website is now www.rotaryshoebox.org Similarly when returning filled shoeboxes, please now send e-mail to: all@rotaryshoebox.org

Not a Rotary Club? No Problem

Any organisation or School, not in touch with a local Rotary or Inner Wheel Club, can get details of the scheme from: Rtn Nigel Danby (Gill) phone: 0161 763 3131 daytime preferred or 01706 643241 evening e-mail: nigeldanbyO2@o2.co.uk

Contacts: For any enquiries about the scheme contact:

North: Rtn Ken Smith (Sylvia)
phone: 0161 437 5529 [Cheshire]
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THE ROTARY SHOEBOX SCHEME



An RIBI Project

NEWSLETTER



March 2010

Distribution of boxes since October 2009

Date	Destination	Boxes	Distributors
Oct	Kiev, Ukraine	2100	Pasha Ozeruga
Dec	L'viv, Ukraine	1410	Bethesda Church
Dec	Tirana, Albania	4920	Chris Dakas, Stephen Centre
Dec	Kiev, Ukraine	5940	Pasha Ozeruga
Dec	Odessa, Ukraine	6540	Tatyana Kolomiets
Jan	Iasi, Romania	10710	Iasi 2000 Rotary Club

Opportunity to see Shoeboxes being Distributed

We are often asked if there is an opportunity to go out and see your shoebox gifts being distributed.

In May we are proposing to organise a visit to Cluj in north-west Romania to coincide with the delivery of a few thousand boxes to that area.

We anticipate that the air fare will be very low with Whizz Air (under £100 return) from Luton airport. In addition the cost of accommodation will be kept to a minimum with some hosting by our contacts out there.

If you are interested in this trip, then please contact Shoebox Chairman Rtn Peter Clare on 01706 824770 or e-mail at: peter.clare@dsl.pipex.com

RIBI Conference

We will be attending the Rotary National Conference at Bournemouth in April, when Rotarians from throughout Great Britain and Ireland will come together. We will be pleased to welcome you at our Shoebox stand there. Please stop by for a chat.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland – International Project

Hope and Homes for Children

Following the delivery of 7,620 boxes in March 2009, our friends at Hope and Homes for Children sent a very comprehensive report as to where all the boxes were distributed.

The following is a brief summary:

The majority were distributed in Maramures County with 38 small family homes that we support benefiting. Here, younger children were given toys while older children had boxes containing school supplies. Mother and Baby units had Household boxes with baby items.

Similar but smaller distributions were made in Alba County and in Bihor County.

In Hunedoara County, we delivered boxes to small family homes where young people were being moved from the former Sacel Institution. These Household boxes contained hygiene items and we also took teenage boxes.

In Maramures County we also distributed 616 boxes to children in an Institution that we have targeted for closure. In Bacu County a further 440 were distributed to a similar Institution. Further boxes were given to our foster families for distribution at Easter and for Childrens Day 1st June.

We thank everyone involved for your support. It makes a real difference to the lives of so many children and young people

*Jenny Marshall, HHC Romania
September 09*



News from Odessa

At the festival called Yamarka (we know it as Epiphany) in Odessa, Ukraine, over 3,000 shoebox gifts were distributed on January 5th and 6th 2010. Deep thanks to all who filled and collected boxes and passed their love and care to Ukraine children and adults.

*Tatyana Kolomiets, Odessa, Ukraine
January 20th 2010*



The Haiti Disaster

Since the earthquake disaster in Haiti in January, we have had a number of requests to see if we would be sending shoebox gifts to the people there.

The aid need in that country is not the type that we could send. Their immediate needs are for shelter, clean water, medical supplies and food. In addition to this, the airport there was inundated with aid and distribution became a problem.

We are often also asked about shoeboxes to Africa. Here again shelter, clean water and food are their most pressing needs.

Other Rotary Box Schemes

To help in these areas the Rotary sponsored ShelterBox and Aquabox are the most appropriate, though we do realise that the cost of these can be prohibitive, especially where small groups or schools are concerned.

As Haiti approaches their rainy season, shelter is most important and Rotary ShelterBoxes have been seen on recent News reports. One recent report also mentioned that the USA sent 50,000 khaki field tents to Haiti. The cost of these would be relatively small and perhaps a simpler less expensive version of ShelterBox would suffice.

Our commitment

In the meantime we are still committed, as our constitution states, to send humanitarian aid to Central and Eastern European countries.

This will continue as long as we see a need in these countries, something that we constantly monitor to ensure that your gifts go to the most needy in these areas.

Lincolnshire Newspapers

Again this group of newspapers have supported the Shoebox Scheme giving it massive publicity over a period of five weeks in each of their eight publications in Lincolnshire.

With three new titles in the Peterborough area, they are now called the 'East Midlands Newspaper Group'. Over 3,500 boxes in total were filled and returned to their eleven offices by the end of October.

One of their reporters has again gone out to Romania to see boxes being distributed and is reporting back.

See following for video and report.

<http://www.meltontimes.co.uk/features/Shoe-boxes-are-39a-little.6066084.jp>

A bit long winded I know, so the alternative is to just type the first line and then look up the Shoebox feature.

A story from the Newspapers

The following story was reported in the Peterborough Evening Telegraph in November.

A wheelchair bound lady reader is still mourning the loss of her 28year old son early in 2009. Filling six shoeboxes has given her huge comfort and made her feel like she is honouring her son's memory.

She said, 'My son always loved life and when it was his birthday in September I made a donation to charity. I'm doing this now for him for Christmas. It's given me my sons Christmas. I have really enjoyed filling the shoeboxes.'