

Rotary Shoebox Project 2016 - The Rotary Club of Aberdeen St Machar



What is the project for?

Originally started in 1994, the Rotary Shoebox Scheme was then intended to provide children of Lasi, in north-east Romania with Christmas gifts. Since then, the scheme has become a national project supported not only by Rotary clubs but also by individuals, schools, companies, churches, etc.

Gifts are now sent out throughout the year to many different countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Toys are especially useful all year round for Birthday presents in the Orphanages, Homes and Hospitals. All age groups, including teenagers, have welcomed the boxes. Boxes have been given to children and teenagers in orphanages, hospitals and also to street kids, to adults in TB and AIDS hospitals, to disadvantaged families and to women's refuges and to older folk in hostels with no supporting families.

In addition to Romania, Shoebox gifts have been delivered to Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Albania, Croatia and Kosovo.

Each year around 60,000 Shoeboxes or gifts are sent!



Donations from Hanover Street School

It has been many years since Hanover Street participated in this project. I am sure it is something that the school community can open their hearts to, this session.

This year one lorry will go to Kiev for distribution of boxes across Ukraine except the disputed areas. Another lorry will go to deliver half the load to Lasi in NE Romania where rural poverty across that and neighbouring countries is high. The other half of the load will go to Chisinau for distribution across Moldova which is probably the poorest country in Europe.

The Rotary Club has had a request from their distributor in Tirana for boxes to give to Syrian refugees in the area, as well as Albanian children and families.

So, what can YOU donate?

Suggested items:

TOYS: Matchbox type cars, small bouncy balls, yo-yos, dolls, colouring books, crayons, felt tip pens, pencils, notebooks, jigsaws, lego

TEENAGE: make-up, toiletries, sports-wear, hats, gloves, scarves, comb and mirror, writing materials, etc.

HOUSEHOLD: washing powder, fairy liquid, hand soap, shampoo, toothbrush and paste, disinfectant, letter paper and envelopes, ball point pens, etc. (By adding warm gloves or scarf, the box is suitable for an older person)

What NOT to include are: Food, sweets, chocolate & drinks, battery operated toys, war related toys, matches, inflammable aerosols (e.g. deodorants, hairspray) seeds or any other living materials, automatic washing machine powders.

A suggested donation of £2 towards transport costs – which we will tape to the outside of the lid of the boxes.

Please bring in any donations – no matter how big or small, by **Monday 3 October**. We will collate all donations in the meeting room and the P7s will sort them into age/gender groups for the boxes to be collected on the first day after the October holidays.

Many thanks; I'm looking forward to having a wee clear-out at home! And will take comfort in the fact that for many children, their families and the elderly, the Rotary shoebox will be their only Christmas gift.

Gillian Forbes

Depute Head Teacher