

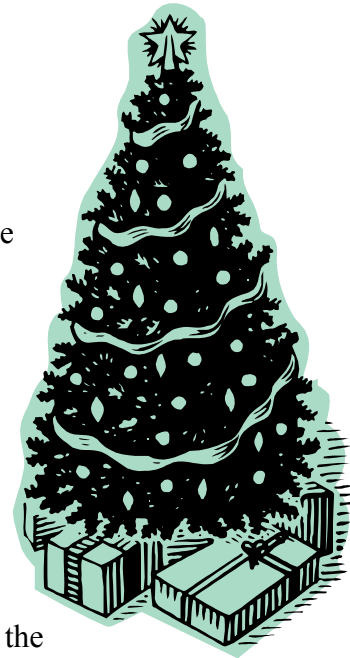
# No Present Under the Tree?

As a child, how would you have felt if you awoke on Christmas morning, and there was no present for you under the tree?

The Life Care associates who have attended *Your Life Care Journey: Just the Beginning* have heard me tell of my third-grade teacher, Amy Johnson, who noticed that I left school for the holiday break empty-handed and in tears because, somehow, there was nothing for me when the gifts were distributed. She corrected the oversight by driving to downtown Cookeville, purchasing and wrapping a ring-toss set, and delivering it to me at home.

She had taken a heartbreaking situation and turned it into pure joy.

Such is the opportunity for us today, this weekend and Monday, the final collection day for Operation Christmas Child. There is still plenty of time to ...



- Pray for God to lead you in your preparations to meet the needs of the child who will receive the gifts, such as toys, school supplies, personal hygiene items or clothing.
- Decide if the shoe box recipient will be a boy or girl, and the age range of 2 to 4, 5 to 9 or 10 to 14.
- Discuss the project and its purpose with a child, grandchild, niece or nephew (or all of the aforementioned) and take them on a shopping trip. The exercise is such an important lesson for teaching the value and personal rewards of helping others.
- Prepare the shoe box, either the pre-printed versions available at any Life Care center, or wrap an ordinary shoe box and its lid separately. Place the articles inside, and include cash or a check for \$7 made payable to Samaritan's Purse (taped to the underside of the lid). Secure the box with a rubber band, and attach the label, indicating the gender and age range of the child. (Important note: If you wish to track the destination of your box, go to the Samaritan's Purse website, click on *Follow Your Shoe Box to EZ Give* for instructions and pay online. You must download the *EZ Give* shoe box label with a bar code to attach to your box.)
- Drop the box or boxes off at a Life Care center relay site or at the Life Care collection center on Keith Street in Cleveland, Tennessee.
- Enjoy a little extra spring in your step as you enter the Christmas season.

Thank you for the role you play in the success of Operation Christmas Child – in your personal giving and in the collection efforts you demonstrate as our centers work with churches, schools, organizations and families who believe in the power of a simple shoe

box in the hand of God to extend hope and love to children who find themselves in desperate circumstances.

Monday's a-comin' – and I expect a great harvest.

– Beecher Hunter