

Saved from an Orphanage

For 12 years of her life, Livia Satterfield lived in a Romanian orphanage. With a lack of love and care from attendants and fellow orphans, she vividly remembers the change that came to her life at 9 years old through a simple shoe box.

She said she was shocked that people across the ocean would care enough about her to send her gifts. The rush of anticipation was almost more than she could bear when all of the orphans had boxes placed in their hands and then counted together “one, two, three!” as a signal to open them.

Among the much-needed hygiene and cosmetic items, Livia was ecstatic about the hair clips she had desired for as long as she could recall – and there they were, on top of other gifts in her box.



Also included was a friendship necklace. Livia asked a translator how to say “I love you!” in English so that she could share the phrase and half of her necklace with a volunteer and new friend, Connie Satterfield. Connie had traveled from Georgia in the United States to Romania for a mission trip and to distribute the shoe boxes.

Five years later, Connie and her husband adopted Livia.

We got to meet Livia and hear her story during Life Care’s Operation Christmas Child kickoff dinner here in Cleveland on Sept. 1. For the past five years, she has traveled to speak at events and churches promoting the program as a national spokesperson for Operation Christmas Child. In 2004, returning the blessing she received through the shoe box ministry, she traveled with Samaritan’s Purse’s *Youth Beyond Borders* to Costa Rica to distribute shoe box gifts.

Livia is now a student at Clayton State University in LaGrange, Ga., as a junior studying marketing. She hopes to someday work with Samaritan’s Purse.

She is but one example of the power of a simple shoe box to change the life of a child who is desperate for love and hope for the future. Since becoming a national sponsor of Operation Christmas Child in 1995, Life Care associates have been responsible for collecting more than 2¼ million shoe boxes producing amazing results in the lives of boys and girls in faraway lands.

Monday, Nov.21, is the final day for collection. That means we have 12 days – and two weekends – for shopping. Please take the time to prepare a box, or more, for your family. And encourage co-workers, family members of residents, and your church or civic club to get involved.

Remember: There are other Livias who need us.

– Beecher Hunter