

# The Sharing Org

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## Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

September 2011

### Ministry Moment:

*She Greets Me With Coppers...*

Every week for the past year a solitary lady has been greeting me in the same manner – with a couple of coins. Before anything else can happen in the weekly worship service her coins must be ceremoniously transferred from her change purse into my outstretched hand. “This is for the shoeboxes,” she reminds me. It may be a single penny or it may be two quarters, but every week she makes sure that she will be able to fill a Christmas shoebox for a child.

The shoebox program has been something that we have been doing ever since our very first year of service to the homes back in 2003 – *9 years of shoeboxes now!* The residents so desire to take part that the year that I had broken my knee (2007) and was on bed-rest for 3 months I arrived back to one of the homes to be greeted by the residents with shoeboxes that they had collected, wrapped, and were simply waiting for me to provide them with the materials to pack. ☺

Every year I try to show the residents the short 10 minute video about the shoebox program and the children who receive the gifts. One year there was a younger man who participated with us. Every week I went and it seemed that he would attempt to wear me out with his complaints of his situation. He was angry because he had been forced by the court to live in his group home because he had done irreparable damage to himself with the use of narcotics. However, after I showed the video of the shoebox program, and the children who received them, I was surprised when he came to me and informed me that he had decided that maybe he did not have it as bad as he had thought after-all.

And so it is that September is fund-raising month for this year’s shoebox program and October is the month for the shoebox filling parties. I am excited to see how God will touch all of our lives with the love of Jesus again this year.

~John

*Please see other side...*

## Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

Well, September is the month for raising the funds for this year's shoebox program. This year we are raising \$1,620 to fill 30 boxes.

We have almost 100 residents who like to fill shoeboxes with us, but because raising \$5,400.00 is terribly difficult, we simply buy enough materials to fill 30 boxes and reuse it all again and again for the residents since 30 is the maximum number of boxes we fill at any single shoebox filling party. Of course it would be nice to let everyone have their very own box to fill, as well as provide for many more children in the program, but alas this seems to be the way that works best.

Please be in prayer with us this year as we raise the money to provide for the program. Also, if you would like to provide financially for all of the materials for one or more of the boxes and allow our residents to fill them, I invite you to donate \$54.00 per box. Many of you have asked if you can just provide the items for a box, but because I have tax-exemption and special buying power with purchasing in bulk, I ask that you just donate toward the raising of the funds – thanks.

This year we have a special treat as a young lady from Samaritan's Purse's *Operation Christmas Child* has contacted us and will be involved with one of the shoebox filling parties. It is very gratifying to me that someone with international reach has noticed what our little organization is doing in this global effort. Thank you for being an integral part of the annual shoebox program with us. As I write this I realize that next year will be our 10<sup>th</sup> year of doing shoeboxes – I am going to have to figure out how to make a big deal of it because – *well, because it is a big deal now, isn't it?*

Finally, thank you all for joining us in the effort to make sure that the residents who cannot get out of their homes to join a local church for weekly worship are still served with the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. If you were not helping to make this happen it would not take very long before it did not happen. So I thank you for continuing to pray with and financially support for me, my family, and our residents.

Blessings,



John