



# 'Tis the season

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As the Christmas season approaches, many people are looking for ways to give to those families and children who are less fortunate. The events of the past couple of months have made it even more evident that there are thousands of people who are at a disadvantage this holiday season.

If you are looking for a way to give, there are several ways you can give nationally and internationally.

### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child gives children living in desperate situations a chance to receive a little Christmas cheer. Volunteers fill shoeboxes with items such as socks, toys, candy and personal hygiene items. They also decide whether to send their gifts to a boy or girl and in what age group. The program is an opportunity for people of all ages to do something for someone else. From elementary students to adults, anyone can help fill a shoebox. Along with the shoeboxes, the children are also given Gospel booklets in their own language. During the 2004 Christmas season, Operation Christmas Child collected 7.4 million shoeboxes and distributed them in 95 countries including Sudan, Afghanistan and Liberia. The project is part of the Samaritan's Purse organization that is also working on relief efforts for people in the Sudan, the tsunami disaster area, the earthquake victims in Pakistan and the hurricane victims.



### 'Bikes or Bust' for Katrina Victims

The original "Bikes or Bust" program had been a holiday tradition at K99.1 FM, the Mississippi Gulf Coast for 10 years. They had been collecting bikes each year for donating them to needy families.

After Katrina hit, the radio station did not see their 10th anniversary being successful in the area had lost too much to contribute. However, Clear Channel, as well as Wal-Mart have teamed together to help the Gulf Coast arm of the Salvation Army collect bikes for Christmas. Starting Saturday, 10 Wal-Mart managers plan to bike along U.S. 90 from Clear Channel to raise awareness about the program. People can donate by calling 1-800-SAL-ARM or visit the site of a local Clear Channel Radio Station.

### My Two Front Teeth

MyTwoFrontTeeth.org also works to aid families during the holiday season. This organization asks community organizations that work with underprivileged children and choose who they want to sponsor. Then they give toy catalogs, 20 toys under \$25, selected by the staff, to the organizations. Children fill in information such as their name, age and address on each profile card, the children fill in information such as their name, age and address on each profile card. They choose one toy as their holiday wish. After collecting the catalogs, the catalogs are scanned and their information is put on an online profile for each child. Parents can visit <http://www.MyTwoFrontTeeth.org>, to look at the children's profiles and sponsor a child. The catalogs are chased through the distributors and shipped to the community organizations where they are distributed to the children for the holidays. Proceeds from the sponsorships are placed into the MyTwoFrontTeeth fund which is used to fulfill the wishes of any children who were not sponsored. At the end of the year, 10 percent of the leftover proceeds is distributed to the community organizations.