

# HOLIDAY SHOEBOX PROJECT

## History:

In 2000, Roberta Vander Molen (Birdie) wanted a simple service project to teach her Sunday School students the importance of giving. That year her students filled a little red wagon full of canned goods and walked it to the Niles Township Food Pantry. The following year canned goods were replaced with "Goodie bags" filled with treats, a holiday tradition Birdie cherished as a little girl raised with a German Mennonite upbringing. In 2010, Birdie felt she needed to do more and added a shoe box providing families with an unexpected gift of products that cannot be purchased with food stamps, along with a "Goodie bag" filled with holiday treats.

## 2019 Goal:

Through the generosity of many, the Shoe Box Project has grown from a little red wagon to a production that requires hundreds of volunteers and two sizable delivery trucks. This year's project consists of 1,600 plastic shoeboxes filled with personal care items, household products and 1,600 Goodie bags filled with fruit, nuts and candies. These gifts are distributed by our charity partners, Niles Township Food Pantry (located across the street from our office) and Breakthrough Urban Ministries (located in East Garfield Park).

## How you can Help:

### Assembly:

The assembly of these gifts will be on Sunday afternoon, December 15th starting at 2 p.m. This event is intended to be a family event and children are welcome. This years assembly location is to be determined. We will inform everyone of the location asap.

### Donations:

There are two ways to donate

- Cash Donations to cover the cost of a Shoebox \$25 or Goodie Bag \$5
- Donate your time

Thank you for joining us in this important work, together we can make a difference.

<http://www.nilestownshipgov.com/food-pantry>

<http://www.breakthrough.org/>