



## Hitchin's Christmas Shoebox Project - 2022

For more than 30 years Link to Hope have been supporting lives across Eastern Europe as people live with poverty and need, and an estimated 1 million Christmas Shoeboxes have been distributed as a demonstration of practical care and support, alongside many all-year-round community projects that have been developed. Since 2004, we at Walsworth Road Baptist Church have coordinated a Christmas Shoebox Project, working for a number of years now with Link to Hope. The new factor in the backdrop to the project this year is the Russian invasion of Ukraine (where various Link projects are based), but Link to Hope are all the more committed to supporting people in need. And so partnering with them again, we have launched this project in schools and churches across the locality, in the hope that shoeboxes can be prepared and filled across the town during the Half term break, and then sent on their journey by road to Eastern Europe.

Shoeboxes will be collected from your school after Half term, and then sorted and prepared for their onward travel. Link to Hope send Christmas shoeboxes, through their own community projects and through trusted local partners, to people known to be in need in Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. As usual, there are two styles of shoebox – *Family* or *Elderly* – so please choose which style you would like to create, and then wrap the box and lid separately with Christmas wrapping paper.

Please print out the **Print Me** sheet that comes with this letter, and use the Contents list attached to the box lid to fill the shoebox with good things, and *please tick off* everything that you have included.

Link to Hope have clearly identified six categories on the **Essential Items** list, which is the same for both styles of shoebox:

*Gloves or Scarf or Hat;*

*Chocolate/ sweets (dated after June 2023);*

*Soap & Flannel;*

*Toothbrush & toothpaste;*

*Candle & Holder (holder is for stability);*

*Small Game (eg Draughts, Dominos, Cards)*

On the Contents list then there are further suggestions of items for you to include as **Extras** (ideally at least **five** of these), depending on whether you are filling a Family or an Elderly shoebox.

Please do *not* include any of the following items:

*Food, Tea / Coffee, Medicines, Books, Sanitary items, Underwear, Second-hand items*

### Donation

As a small charity and in order to assist with transport costs, Link to Hope ask for a donation of £3 per shoebox to be included with the box (cash or cheque). Link to Hope also encourage all UK tax payers to sign the Gift Aid declaration as well, please, to add value to the gift at no additional cost to the donor. The form and the donation can go inside the shoebox, and these will be passed safely but separately to the charity. The shoeboxes from Hitchin will then be cartoned, 'ready for the pallet', and then delivered to Link to Hope in Sussex in mid-November for their onward journey.

### Questions?

Please feel free to contact the local project team in Hitchin with any questions, by emailing [shoeboxes@wrbchitchin.org.uk](mailto:shoeboxes@wrbchitchin.org.uk)

Thank you for your generous support.