



Anthony Workman OBE
3 Winchester Gardens
Andover, Hants
SP10 2EH
Email: workmanm@btinternet.com
Phone: 01264 352 793

Dear Head Teacher

Although your pupils are yet to start their summer break, it is time for me to write and again ask you for your support in our Christmas Shoe Box appeal this year. Rotary Humanitarian Aid project has been running since 1984 and last year's appeal was a great success thanks to the generosity of the staff, pupils and parents of the schools in the Rotary Wessex area.

- In 2022, in the Wessex Rotary district, 18,000 boxes were filled by children, families and groups of friends who have enjoyed filling shoeboxes with presents to celebrate our Christmas.
- 18,000 children of different religions in Eastern Europe were very grateful to receive such lovely presents.
- If you do your sums, that means in 2022 over 36,000 people enjoyed the experience of giving and receiving.

Photographs are attached of some of the recipients receiving your kind donations.

The war in Ukraine continues and many families are displaced or living in terrible conditions. Nevertheless, 1000 boxes were delivered into Ukraine via Poland. The security situation was very difficult as can be seen in the attached photograph.

The Collection Total was 18,224 Shoeboxes plus 34 cartons of knitted and sewn clothing and blankets which were collected by 55 clubs within Rotary Wessex from their supporting organisations, such as children in schools, WI, Church groups, Mothers Union and Age Concern. These were distributed to:

- Moldova – Rotary Club Chisinau, 5188 boxes
- Montenegro – Rotary Club Ulcinj, 4911 boxes
- Poland – Rotary Club Lublin Centrum, 2925 boxes with nearly 1,000 going on to Kyiv

- Romania – Rotary Club Teka Targu Mures, 5200 boxes.

Each Rotary club receiving your gifts is twinned with a Rotary Club in our region. This project is, about therefore, friends sending gifts to friends, but on a large scale.

This year we have decided to send this letter and it's attachments to all the schools by e-mail and request that they forward it to their community along with a covering letter from the school/organisation. Asking them if they would be willing to take part. We would be grateful if the school could collate the returns and advise us of the number of boxes required.

Again, this year we are providing a standard size box for our generous donors to use. The shoebox will take a size five adult shoe, large enough to take rolls of paper, pens and pencils and games such dominoes etc, but not so large that we would be asking our donors to have to spend a large amount of money to fill them. Please do not place any food items or sweets in the box.

The boxes will be white double wall card, reasonably robust and can be assembled by simply folding and clicking them into shape. Each box will have a label printed that states whether the content is suited to a boy or girl and the age range. Some children prefer to wrap the boxes in Christmas paper or cover the boxes with sticky Christmas theme labels to make them look attractive. To enable them to do this, a duplicate label will be supplied with age range and gender that can be stuck on the outside of the wrapped/decorated box. Boxes have been designed to a shape that will allow 16 boxes to fit into our standard outer cartons for shipping, which will save space and money.

Again this year we are asking for a £2 donation to cover the cost of the transportation. We appreciate things are very tight at home but, when we think of the children in Eastern Europe who have lost everything, we are asking for a donation of less than the price of a cup of coffee. Would it not be wonderful to bring a bit of happiness to these children when they receive your Shoebox?

We at Rotary are always humbled by the wonderful response of the schools and organisations in the Andover Rotary area. But the situation in Eastern Europe is still desperate and we would like to see even more boxes being delivered to the Ukraine and other deprived areas. The impact of your generosity will be reflected on the faces of the children in these areas at Christmastime. It may be the only present that they will receive.

in advance we would like to thank you all on behalf of Rotary Andover and the children of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Ukraine.

Yours in Rotary

Tony Workman

