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BOX OF JOY

Media Tip Sheet

Facts — Bios — News Hooks

boxofjoy.org



NAME **Box of Joy**

SYNOPSIS

Cross Catholic Outreach’s Box of Joy is a booming Christmas ministry inviting people all over the U.S. to pack hope and happiness for thousands of children in dire poverty around the world. Parishes, schools, churches, groups and families can pack gift boxes with presents like small toys, bar soap, pencils, toothbrush, toothpaste, hard candy, crayons, coloring books or T-shirts. Once participants add a \$9 check in each box to cover the shipment and to help support the charitable work where the child lives, they deliver the Box of Joy to their local drop-off center in November.

IMPACT

2014

Participating Dioceses 2
Country Guatemala
Children Helped 2,693

2015

Participating Dioceses 12
Countries Haiti, Guatemala
Children Helped 11,575



2016

Countries Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic
Children Helped 31,712

2017

Countries Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua
Children Helped 46,360

2018

Countries Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador
Children Helped 58,030

2019

Countries Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador
Children Helped 75,797

2020

Countries Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador,
Grenada, Honduras
Children Helped 61,422

2021 SCHEDULE

February: Sign-ups began for 2021 Box of Joy

September/October: Box of Joy season kick-off

By October 30: Each participating group selects a Project Leader and signs up

October: Project leaders receive materials, set goals and group participants start shopping to fill boxes.

November 6-14: Box of Joy Week. Boxes are collected at local drop-off centers and trucked to the Box of Joy National Screening Center in Miami

December: Gifts are screened and prepared for shipment to children



NEWS HOOKS

A Great Way for Families to Get Back to Normal

Box of Joy is a wonderful way for families to return to normal after last year, especially those who had participated in previous years but felt uncomfortable doing so in 2020.

Poverty Has Skyrocketed in the Aftermath of the Coronavirus

The World Bank estimates that poverty will significantly increase in the aftermath of the global pandemic. People who may have been able to get out of poverty before the pandemic have fallen even deeper into it, especially in the developing countries that Box of Joy serves. Box of Joy, while providing something so small to children of these families, is a way to bring joy in the midst of suffering.

Service Instead of Materialism

While America is the most generous [country](#) in the world, Americans have many material possessions. Christmas is oversaturated with ads for toys, gadgets and many things we don't really need. By participating in Box of Joy as a family, parents can teach their children about service and compassion instead of encouraging the wanting of the next new toy or electronic device.

BIOS

Jim Cavnar

President, Cross Catholic Outreach

In 2001, Jim Cavnar and a small group of colleagues launched Cross Catholic Outreach to support parishes and ministries that directly serve the world's poor in their own communities. Under Jim's leadership, Cross Catholic Outreach grew from a fledgling enterprise to a Vatican-endorsed charity in dozens of countries. Cross Catholic Outreach fights poverty more effectively by channeling hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and relief supplies through its grassroots network.

Previously, Jim served eight years as executive director of a Christian relief and development ministry called Food for the Poor, helping build it into the fastest-growing major charity in the U.S.



After graduating from Notre Dame with a degree in Theology, Jim worked in campus ministry at the Catholic parish at the University of Michigan and then helped found and lead an ecumenical lay community in Ann Arbor of 3,000 members promoting evangelization and spiritual renewal nationally and internationally. Out of it grew Servant Ministries, an international mission organization and publishing company he helped develop and lead for 20 years.

Sandi Pino

Sr. Director of the Parish & Community Services Department, Cross Catholic Outreach

During her tenure at Cross Catholic Outreach, Sandi has represented the organization at conferences, parishes, schools and community events. She has presented the mission of Cross Catholic Outreach for various television and radio opportunities. Sandi especially enjoys accompanying Catholic parishes and school groups on mission trips to countries such as Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Haiti. Her experience spans over 30 years, during which time she gained knowledge in business, fundraising and development, staffing, personnel management, sales, and budgeting.

To learn more, visit boxofjoy.org.

For interviews, contact Kevin Wandra at 404-788-1276 or KWandra@CarmelCommunications.com

Visit CarmelCommunications.com for:

- Box of Joy Press Release
- Cross Catholic Outreach Fact Sheet
- Q&A With Cross Catholic Outreach President Jim Cavnar

ABOUT CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CrossCatholic.org

This year, Cross Catholic Outreach celebrates 20 years of ministry to the poorest families and communities in the developing world. Since its founding in South Florida in 2001, this official Catholic nonprofit 501(c)(3) relief and development organization has provided over \$3.3 billion in aid to help the poorest of the poor in more than 85 countries. Endorsed by over 150 U.S.



Cross Catholic
OUTREACH

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

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Catholic bishops, archbishops and cardinals since its inception, Cross Catholic Outreach's mission is to mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ. This is achieved by partnering with bishops, priests and religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education, orphan support, medical care, microenterprise, agriculture, disaster relief and spiritual outreach — and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ — to developing countries around the world.

For more information about Cross Catholic Outreach, visit CrossCatholic.org or call 800-914-2420.