



FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH
FOR **JUST ONE GIFT**

Media Tip Sheet

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BOX OF JOY

Facts — Bios — News Hooks

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 may pack gift boxes with presents like small toys, bar soap, pencils, a toothbrush, toothpaste, hard candy, crayons, coloring books or T-shirts. Once participants donate \$9 to cover the shipment and 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 Blessed	2,693

2015

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

2016

Nationwide Program	
Countries	Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic
Children Blessed	31,712

2017

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



2018

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

2019

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

2020

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

2021

Countries Haiti, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador,
Grenada, Honduras
Children Blessed 106,276 (a 73% increase over 2020)

2022

Countries: TBD
Children Blessed: TBD

2023 SCHEDULE

January: Sign-ups open for 2023 Box of Joy
Sept/Oct: Box of Joy season kick-off
By October 27: Each participating group selects a Project Leader and signs up.
October: Project leaders receive materials, set goals and start shopping to fill boxes with their groups.
Nov. 4-12: 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 Focus on the Treasures of Heaven During the Busy Holiday Season

The Christmas season can be immensely busy and participating in Box of Joy helps families to “store up treasures in heaven” (Mt. 6:20) by serving others instead of focusing on themselves and material gifts during the Christmas season.



The Generosity of Americans Increased During the Pandemic

Americans were already the most generous people in the world, but during the pandemic, generosity actually increased. According to Axios, 72% of Americans helped strangers and 60% donated money, which is an astounding number. It seems that the desire to help others transcends any and all boundaries, which Box of Joy aims to cultivate in families and individuals who choose to help impoverished children. The number of children served by Box of Joy increased by 73% from 2020 to 2021.

Box of Joy Helps to Get Families “Back to Normal”

Box of Joy is a wonderful way to ‘return to normal’ after a difficult past couple years for many families, especially those who had participated in previous years but felt uncomfortable to do so during the pandemic.

BIOS

Jim Cavnar

Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Cross Catholic Outreach

A deeply committed Catholic, Jim Cavnar co-founded Cross Catholic Outreach to follow Christ’s command to care for the poorest of the poor. Jim’s career spans more than four decades in ministry management and leadership. He has traveled around the globe to speak at conferences and parishes, and he has been called upon to minister to church-based humanitarian programs. Representing Cross Catholic Outreach, Jim has traveled to the Vatican on numerous occasions, meeting St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict and, most recently, Pope Francis..

Michele Sagarino

President, Cross Catholic Outreach

Michele Sagarino has nearly three decades of experience in nonprofit leadership. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Michele answered the call on her life to begin service for various charitable organizations, including Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Gateway Community Outreach and Food For The Poor. She joined Cross Catholic Outreach in 2004, and she served as vice president for development for 15 years. Through the years, Michele has been an important leader in the organization. Her expertise and heart for service will continue to lead Cross Catholic Outreach forward with wisdom and integrity, allowing the organization and their donors to impact even more lives.

Sandi Pino

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

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



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To learn more, visit boxofjoy.org.

For interviews, contact Kevin Wandra at 404-788-1276 or kwandra@carmelcommunications.com.

Learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach at CrossCatholic.org.

Based in Florida, Cross Catholic Outreach is an official Catholic nonprofit 501(c)(3) relief and development organization that, since its founding in 2001, has given more than \$1 billion in aid to help “the poorest of the poor” in more than three dozen developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. For more information about Cross Catholic Outreach, visit CrossCatholic.org or call 800-914-2420.

Box of Joy is a ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach



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