



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

Media Tip Sheet

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BOX OF JOY

Facts — News Hooks — Bios

NAME Box of Joy

SYNOPSIS

Cross Catholic Outreach's Box of Joy is an interactive Christmas gift-giving ministry that provides people all over the U.S. with an opportunity to pack hope and happiness for thousands of children living in poverty around the world. Parishes, schools, churches, groups and families pack gift boxes with small fun or practical presents for a boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. These gift options might include small toys, bar soap, pencils, 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. There also is a "donate a Box of Joy online" option for those who are too busy to pack a Box of Joy. This online donation covers the cost of the gifts and shipping; Cross Catholic Outreach handles packing these boxes.

IMPACT 2014

Country	Guatemala
Children Blessed	2,693

2015

Countries	Guatemala, Haiti
Children Blessed	11,575

2016

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



2017

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

2018

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

2019

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

2020

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

2021

Countries Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti,
Honduras, Nicaragua
Children Blessed 106,276

2022

Countries Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala,
Honduras, Malawi
Children Blessed 118,990

2023 SCHEDULE

January Sign-ups open for 2023 Box of Joy.
September/October Box of Joy season kicks off.
By October 28 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.
November 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

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

Charitable giving was down in 2022 for only the fourth time in 40 years

Americans are typically the most generous people in the world, but charitable giving in 2022 was down for only the fourth time in 40 years. This drop in giving has been creating real challenges for ministries helping the poor because they rely on a steady flow of donations to keep their services operating and effective. Our hope is that the public will consider this as they make their gift-giving choices this year. Their continued generosity is important to the poor worldwide!

Box of Joy is an opportunity for families to be an example to others in charitable giving

Children and others learn by watching the examples they are given. Box of Joy is an opportunity to show the love of Christ through helping those less fortunate.

BIOS

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 its donors to impact even more lives.

Sandi Pino Senior Director, Parish & Community Services, 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 through 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 30 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.

About Cross Catholic Outreach

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 \$4 billion in aid to help “the poorest of the poor” in more than 90 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



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