

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)

Greek organization delivers holiday cheer worldwide

Online Exclusive

Aaron Fiedler, Staff Writer

Posted: 11/17/06

This holiday season UNC students can have an impact on the lives of children around the world with just an old shoebox and less than \$10.

For the second consecutive year UNC Greek Impact, a faith-based organization for fraternities and sororities, is taking part in Operation Christmas Child, an international event run by Boone-based Samaritan's Purse.

The toy drive collects and ships Christmas presents for underprivileged children in 90 non-Western countries.

Greek Impact will collect boxes from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. today in front of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house on 132 S. Columbia St. All students are welcome to bring a gift-filled shoebox and a \$7 check.

Members also will accept boxes throughout the weekend for those not able to attend the drive.

Participants fill a shoebox or shoebox-sized container with gifts ranging from small toys to hygiene items. Donors also should wrap the box and include \$7 for shipping.

"The shoeboxes have a bigger impact than reaching those children," said Rachael Fugate, community relations assistant manager for Samaritan's Purse. "It touches their families and their villages."

Samaritan's Purse began the drive in 1993, with 28,000 shoeboxes. It has grown to 8 million shoe boxes worldwide with 100,000 volunteers.

Fugate said the drive affects the volunteers, as well.

"It's a great opportunity for them to get their kids involved," she said. "I think that's one thing of why it appeals to parents."

After hearing about Operation Christmas Child through local churches and fellow students last year, Greek Impact managed to get many Greek organizations on campus involved in the charity.

"One of the local churches in Chapel Hill was being the donation center," said Dave Shepley, campus minister for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's Greek Impact. "It made sense to partner with that church that a lot of students went to."

Last year the group donated 235 shoe boxes and about \$1,500 to the effort.

This year's event took about two months of preparation. Members spent the first month planning and the second month publicizing the event to fraternities and sororities on campus.

"It's important because it gives people the opportunity to share the blessings we have with the less fortunate," said junior Scott Farmer, who heads up public relations for the Greek Impact Vision Team. He added that the goal for this year is to meet or exceed last year's total.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

© Copyright 2006 Daily Tar Heel