

## Box of Joy Program – Make Sure Your Council Signs Up!



***"Make Dreams Come True for Children Who Wish for Just One Gift."***

Many children around the world come from families who cannot afford a single Christmas present. Your Council can change that by providing shoebox-sized Christmas gifts for some of the world's poorest children. In 2023, Knights and Ladies Auxiliaries from MD State united to bless over 5,797 children in developing countries with a **Box of Joy**. For many of these children, a **Box of Joy** was the first Christmas gift they ever received.

**Deadline to Sign-Up:** Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Sign up online by going to this link "[Groups Sign Up](#)" and fill out the form. All necessary materials are shipped to your Council or designated address **at no charge**. Please note the chairman does not have boxes to distribute. Do not leave it until the end of October, the faster you register, the more time you will have to schedule activities and spread the word to your school, parish, youth groups, friends, neighbors, and even your coworkers.

**Suggested Items:** Each Box of Joy is marked for a boy or girl within a specific age range (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14), ensuring that each child gets a gift catered to them. A detailed list of suggested items, as well as items **NOT TO PACK**, can be found online at this link: [Gift Ideas](#). Examples include toys, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and accessories. The Dollar Store or 5 Below are great places to shop for items.

**Box of Joy Collection Week:** Box of Joy Collection Week is Saturday, **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, to Sunday, **November 10<sup>th</sup>**. All Boxes of Joy must be taken to a Drop-Off Center no later than November 10<sup>th</sup>. The boxes will be shipped to Cross Catholic Outreach in Florida, where they will be inspected, receive a rosary and the Story of Jesus, and readied for shipping. As explained in the materials you will receive from Cross Catholic, a **\$9 donation is required** and must be provided for each Box of Joy being sent to help defray the shipping and processing costs but please **do not put any monetary donations in the gift boxes**. Visit this link "[Donation Instruction](#)" and select the boxes that you have packed. The site also offers a [Create-A-Box-Online](#), that is designed for individuals and families who want to participate but are unable to shop and pack boxes themselves.

**Drop-Off Centers:** There are 3 Drop-Off Centers in Maryland so far. 1 is administered by Knights of Columbus and 2 by other organizations. Check this link: [Drop-Off Centers](#)

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Box of Joy Co-Chairmen Alexander Lopez at [alex.lopez.bueno@gmail.com](mailto:alex.lopez.bueno@gmail.com) or via call or text\* at 240-277-8202 or Michael Bir at [mikebir70@gmail.com](mailto:mikebir70@gmail.com) or via call or text at 301-865-3119

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