



# Shoebox Christmas

## A time of giving...

It is more blessed to give than to receive, thus the saying goes.

December, a month where most people would look forward to, in executing either their holiday plans or out on a mission to realize their year-end shopping list, meticulously crafted since January. Reward yourselves so they say.

Should I get an Iphone 4 or the Blackberry? What about the Androids? Ooh... Ipad is out for sale! Those are killer heels! I gotta have it ! To most of us, if not all, it is something that we can relate to.

These are no longer a luxury but a necessity in our social circle. How

often do we think about the less fortunate group of people? Some of us are contributing monthly to groups like World Vision, MAKNA etc.

To some of us , such contributions are unplanned. Shoebox Christmas was put together for us to experience the feeling of packing a gift to an unknown person. Going through the whole process from decision making to, buying gifts to wrapping and finally sending it.

It makes us ponder and think about how fortunate we are, to be able to have items that perhaps others are not able to afford in this lifetime.

Just for a brief moment

imagine a young kid , perhaps never, has he/she receive a beautifully wrapped present.

This year however was different because you chose to make the difference. You have decided to help draw a smile on the face of an unknown person, warming up their hearts and sharing with them the spirit of giving, this Christmas 2010.

Thank You very much for being a part of the Shoebox Christmas Ambassadors!



### A special thank you to our sponsors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors , Gamlite Marketing Sdn Bhd, Eeneminimo, individuals from Sandakan and Singapore, for your monetary contributions, to Boutique Cupcake for sponsoring the wonderfully made cupcakes. Apart from that, special thanks to BATA, Body Care, Seng Leong Jewellery, Genesis Media Design and Popular Bookstore for your generous support. Last but not the least a big thank you to all of you who have sponsored the shoeboxes packed with goodies for the children. We collected a total of 238 shoeboxes from Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur combined and cash sponsorship worth MYR 1,000.00!!!! KUDOS!!

# Kampung Kibabaig, Penampang

DECEMBER 12TH, 2010

Located just minutes away from Tun Fuad Stephens Park, Kg Kibabaig was once in dire need of various support. (medical, immigration, hygiene and education).

Five (05) years ago an NGO stepped in and provided the necessary services to the people of Kg Kibabaig acting mainly as their liaison person with the respected government bodies.

Today, they are better off and this year marks the final year the NGO will be taking care of this kampong. The intention of the release is to have the kampong folks to be more independent, now that the basic facilities are up and running.

Shoebox Christmas and the crew managed to come in at the rightful time to provide

one hundred and fifty (150) Christmas presents packed in a shoebox and cupcakes for the children for the final party.

The whole atmosphere was very uplifting, filled with games, and carols singing sessions, lunch and the highlight of the day was of course none other than the distribution of the presents. Lined up in single file



according to gender, all eagerly awaiting their turn to receive the gifts that were packed for them by you.

Purely, a sight to behold, a smile that would light up the world, seen on the faces of each and every deserving child.



Santa's helper and the modern sleigh

## Ambassador's Sharing

A different experience indeed to have participated in this Shoebox Christmas. To have seen it to fruition from the very seed of an idea. It was really fun to have each person to contribute their thoughts and ideas on how to go about ensuring the success of this project. Ultimately not only was there awesome teamwork but we were all heading in unison towards the same direction, creating an impact. The

gravity of the contributors passion really hit me when we were sorting out the shoeboxes. Looking at stacks after stacks of shoeboxes meticulously packed in transit to their unknown owner. For a moment they all looked like Jack in a box. Waiting for the cue to jump out and greet their new masters.

Seeing that this project turned out to be a huge success, the feeling is just awesome having felt the unity and the enthusiasm in each and every one of you who contributed.

- Marco -

*"i really enjoy when i sourced for the gifts to fill up these boxes :) A very different Xmas for me!"*  
- Jan Marie Chong -

## Ambassador's Sharing

It has been a great pleasure, to be involved in Shoebox Christmas, being able to participate from the very beginning until the end. To see how things turned out greater than expected the feeling is indescribable. Especially given the opportunity to distribute joy to few different areas, make this year's Christmas extra ordinary. - Salander -



# Kampung Dandun, Pitas

DECEMBER 19TH, 2010

Our ambassadors travelled about a hundred and eighty (180) kilometers from Kota Kinabalu to spread the joy of Christmas to this kampong. Battling the harsh road conditions and the merciless rain.

Armed with the balance of eighty eight (88) shoeboxes, milk (sponsored) as well as books bought from the balance of the cash contribution. Teamed up with the previous NGO, our shoebox warriors accomplished their mission. A mission filled with joy and love.

Gratefulness best describes the feeling of the kampong folks, knowing that there are guardian angels caring for them. The children were energetic, filled with anticipation and sheer happiness. Smiles and

laughter so genuine that words alone are not able to describe the minute details.

This ,ladies and gentlemen is the sole pur-



pose of our small project. Drawing smiles .

The kampong folks, adults and children helped in transferring the goodies from the modern four wheeled sleigh into the com-

munity hall.

As for the books, they will be placed at the school library when it re-opens. The carton



## Ambassador's Sharing

Little thoughts, big dreams, out of the ordinary dreams come, and go. We want to achieve something. But fear and procrastination kept us from staying in a merry-go-round. Thanks to the organizer et esprit supérieur for their courage to carry out the spark of idea, to inculcate us with a giving Christmas mood this festive season.

Santa has got antenna to identify villages for sharing our joy with the kids. There are

lots of fun- filled memories during the preparation and distribution of gifts and a million thanks that words could not be expressed to everyone's contributions in making this very last minute and adrenaline-rushed project a success.

Another shoebox project? Phobia of boxes!

Let's do something else next time. In a new year ahead, be inspired; Believe that you can make a difference = )

- Tinker -

*" Shoebox Christmas is like a seasonal flu that spreads the joy of Christmas giving and is highly contagious. Once infected, you feel Christmas. "*  
~ Meei ~

## Christmas Is Here Poem

A good time is coming, I wish it were here,  
The very best time in the whole of the year;  
I'm counting each day on my fingers and thumbs ;  
the weeks that must pass before Santa Claus comes.  
Then when the first snowflakes begin to come down,  
And the wind whistles sharp and the

branches are brown,  
I'll not mind the cold, though my fingers it numbs,  
For it brings the time nearer when Santa Claus comes.

-unknown-

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one ."  
"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving ."  
- Mother Theresa-

AD DISCRIMEN  
FACIENDUM

Shoebbox Christmas was put together by individuals who wanted to make a difference in their society. Putting aside their wish list for the year and place the needs of the less fortunate foremost.



" I love being the ambassador of Shoebbox Christmas, it makes me feels like BOLT minus the tummy I gained from the snacks for acting cute & adorable. Shoebbox Christmas would not have been possible without the support from lovely friends and family. Thank you all for making Christmas real for the children and putting smiles on the little faces. Merry Christmas!! " - Cocoa Latte -

## How it all began...

It was seven thirty in the evening. Negotiating the bends on the road heading home, the phone rang. On the display it showed the name "Sis".

Inspired and touched by a clip on youtube she started sharing with me the idea of replicating the Christmas project for some of the orphanages locally. Knowing that these places are no longer a foreign place, supports are easier to find. So why not head for the kampong folks so we thought.

Rung up Horatio and Gwen and shared with them the idea, which I for one is unclear on how to go about. Horatio and Gwen were very enthusiastic about the pilot project and we started a group on facebook.

Horatio was the one with the most connections and it was through Horatio, that we were able to identify and hook up with our NGO partner.

We were informed to prepare a hundred and twenty two (120) boxes for Kg Kiba-baig. Dude!! That was indeed a challenging number for a pilot project.

Spread the news both, on FB group and amongst friends, it's amazing so see the end result. We have had people dropping it at the drop-zone, self delivery, in Kota Kinabalu, and Meei was driving from condo to condo for the pick-up, some drove quite a distance specifically just to drop off the shoeboxes at Meei's place in Petaling Jaya. Though there were some hiccups with the logistics company we were glad that the KL boxes came just in time. The monetary sponsorship kept coming in. We had so much surplus from the initial target and we were glad that it was able to spill-over for Kg Dandun, Pitas.

What Mother Theresa said was really true *"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving ."*

One could really feel that it is more than just merely giving a shoebox packed with gifts. In the process of all these I am sure most of you felt that what you did is different compared to previous years. Not only did you give a shoebox, you gave hope and joy. Priceless.

This project of ours would not have been successful without your contributions! Uber Priceless!

FYI : *AD DISCRIMEN FACIENDUM* is Latin for TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

And that you did.

