

Refugee Shoebox Appeal

Create a Christmas shoebox gift for a local refugee child in RBKC and Westminster. This may be the only gift they get this Christmas and is a great way to start the season of giving. If you can't create a box full of gifts we will happily take donations of empty shoe boxes or you can buy a gift online from our [AMAZON WISH LIST](#) and our volunteers will pack on your behalf.

HOW TO CREATE A SHOEBOX GIFT

- Gift boxes should be created using an adult sized shoebox.
- The box should be wrapped open so we can even out the boxes before distribution.
- If the box is difficult to wrap open our volunteers can wrap the box before distribution.
- Please label the box with the age category.
- Items should be new, we suggest a budget of £10- £20 per shoebox.
- Boxes should be completed and dropped at reception by December 14th. You can also drop any empty shoeboxes up to this date.

AGE RANGES

Each box is designed for either a boy, girl or unisex in the following age ranges. If you have a child it is nice to create a box together for a child the same age.

2-3yrs

4-6yrs

7-9yrs

10-12yrs

12-14yrs

15-17yrs

WHAT TO PUT INSIDE THE SHOEBOX

A few suggestions:

Hat/gloves

Socks

Chocolates

Jigsaws

Soft toy

Crayons

Colouring book

Play Doh

Pop it's

Toy cars

Colouring pencils/pens

Puzzle/Sudoku books

Dobble

Notepad

Sketchbook

UNO

Yoyo

Chess

Rubix Cube

Jenga

Snap

Sharpies

Wallet

Playing Cards

Bracelets

Hair accessories

Lip Balm

Water Bottle

Hot Chocolate Sachets

Beauty sheet masks

Gel Pens

FAQs:

Who are we?

Mutual Aid Kensington and Chelsea runs a clothes bank that serves local refugees. The clothes bank was formed in 2021 to serve the Afghanistan refugee population arriving in London. As the need has continued we continue to serve any refugee or asylum seeker visiting the clothes bank. We serve approximately 100 refugees a week. Most refugees visiting the clothes bank are in hotel accommodation in RBKC, Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham, we also have refugees visit the clothes bank from outside these areas, we don't turn anyone away. The Clothes Bank is 100% volunteer led and run.

What happens to surplus items?

We aim to create extra shoeboxes to account for the possibility of changes in the number of refugee children in the run up to Christmas. Any surplus items or shoeboxes will first be offered to the charity West London Welcome who are providing shoeboxes for the refugee children in Hammersmith and Fulham. If West London Welcome do not need the extra items these will become stock in the Refugee Clothes Bank based in Kensington and Chelsea that serves refugees from a much wider area. Any surplus cash donations will go towards items needed in the clothes bank such as underwear and socks.

When and How do the boxes get to the refugees?

Mutual Aid volunteers will deliver the shoeboxes to the hotels on Christmas Eve.

Why do the shoeboxes need to be wrapped open?

Before distributing the shoeboxes we will even out the contents so each child receives roughly the same amount of presents. This is especially important for siblings groups.

Why shoeboxes?

As much as possible we want the presents to be roughly the same size and assume most people have a shoebox hanging around. In the absence of a shoebox it is fine to use a similar sized box.

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