

General Information about the Used Shoe Drive to Benefit Erie United Methodist Alliance and All God's Children Ministries

General Information

The organization we are working through is called Funds2orgs. They are a social enterprise company. (If you want more information about the organization you can google them.) There are many positive points to this effort

1. Funds2orgs sets up persons in developing nations with micro enterprise opportunities to repurpose used shoes. These persons, often family groupings, are taught to repair the shoes. This gives persons living in poverty, a means of supporting their families and they in turn can sell shoes at a price that others who need shoes in their communities can afford to buy.
2. The shoe drive will provide operating funds to accomplish the goals of two organizations. The funds raised will be divided between EUMA (Erie United Methodist Alliance) and AGCM (All God's Children Ministries/Ramps of Hope) For each bag of 25 pairs of shoes approximately \$10.00 is raised. Our goal is to collect at least 50,000 pounds of shoes. That breaks down to 2000 garbage bags full of shoes. Funds raised will support outreach services to those affected by homelessness or disability.
3. By repurposing shoes we keep them out of landfills and prevent the chemicals used in their manufacturing from entering into our soil/water/food, etc. It is estimated that 630,000,000 pairs of shoes are discarded in the USA each year!

The churches that collect shoes have little or no expense involved. Shoes need to be in useable condition, banded into pairs or tied together by the shoe strings and then put into large clear garbage bags. They can then be delivered to one of our main collection sites or brought to Grove City during Annual Conference. Right now our collection sites include:

- The Rainbow Connection Thrift Store, 1516 Buffalo Rd., Erie;
- Greg Thomas Floor Expressions, 945 W. 12th St. Erie;
- Girard Area Industrial Authority, 227 Hathaway St. East, Girard, PA.
- Grace UMC, 420 California Dr. Coal Center, PA 15423, T-F 10-3. 724-330-5350
- Grove City College **June 6-9, 2018 during WPAUMC Annual Conference Only**

For questions or problem solving please call Rev. Debbie Hills at (440) 812-4624 or email deacon.dhills@gmail.com

The shoe drive is running through July 1, 2018. Please find on the back of this sheet, a number of ideas that can help you maximize your efforts to collect shoes. Our drive will be most effective if we engage not only our church members but also our communities. These ideas below are just a starting point. If you come up with other ones please let us know about them and we can share them about the Connection. Packaging supplies and instructions are available at your District Conference. If you need additional packaging supplies and can't find Clear bags, 1.2 ml or thicker, at least 33 gal. capacity contact deacon.dhills@gmail.com. or call 440 812-4624. We hope to have a supply at the Conference Center too.

Your collection drive will be most effective if you can find someone in your congregation who has a real heart for mission and outreach to lead the effort. We will work with you and provide information and resources to help you along the way.

Ideas to Kick Off Your Shoe Drive

- 1. Set a collection goal for your church or group and let everyone know what it is. Keep everyone informed about the progress you are making toward that goal.** (It's hard to hit a target if you don't know what that target is.)
2. The first day you announce the shoe drive in church use 45 sec. video that can be sent to you by contacting deacon.dhills@gmail.com.
Following use of the video, ask people to come forward and leave their shoes on the alter. Ask some people ahead of time to wear shoes they are willing to donate. When they are called forward, have them remove their shoes, leave them at the alter or beneath the cross and return to their seats shoeless. Since we are trying to fill garbage bags full of shoes, have your shoeless people hand out garbage bags at the doors after worship and encourage people to take them home and fill them by cleaning out their own closets and asking family and friends to do the same, then return them to church when they are full. If even just a few people return the bags full of shoes from each of our churches, our goal will be met.
3. Use bulletin inserts and post flyers to keep it before the people that can be found on line at <http://euma-erie.org/> or email deacon.dhills@gmail.com. and I'll send you the files.
4. Encourage your Sunday School, youth group, or scout troop to collect shoes as one of their service projects.
5. Advertise a "fill the truck with shoes" date in your neighborhood. You could combine this with a neighborhood shoe collection party.
6. It may be possible to combine #5 with an event already going on in your community.
7. Host a collection box at your work site or business.
8. Encourage people to pray for those in the world who have no shoes. Briefly explain the health hazards and increased mortality rate for those who have no shoes. Children are dying because they have no shoes.
9. Ask those having yard sales to save their left over shoes and donate them to the shoe drive. This could really work great for community or church wide yard sales.
10. Call bowling allies in your community and ask if they will give you any bowling shoes they are replacing.
11. Ask one or more larger places of employment to sponsor a collection day for their employees.
12. Work with a local school to host a collection as a service project.
13. Ask local shoe stores to be a collection site for old shoes.
14. Be creative and come up with your own ideas.
15. Let us know what works for you and we'll pass the information on to everyone in the Connection.