



1-2-4 Project Happenings

1 World 2 Care 4

1 WORLD 2 CARE 4

Creating a bit of Christmas around the World!

Most people have heard of Operation Christmas Child where shoe boxes of goodies for children are sent around the world. I started creating shoe boxes for donation about 10 years ago. I started with just a few boxes and with the help of the 1- 2- 4 Project, have grown to over 200 boxes donated per year!

I come from a large family and we grew up on a farm. Money was always tight, but as a kid I remember one Christmas vividly the tree was packed, and I mean packed with presents.

I still remember a few of the presents from that year including my first Bible, and a big teddy bear that I still have to this day. To give you an idea on how long ago that occurred, we also got an Atari system that year.

So, when I heard about Operation Christmas Child as an adult, my mind went back to that special Christmas. I wanted to give that enjoyment to other children and so for the past ten years, I've filled and donated more and more boxes each year.

One of the things I love about leading this project every year is the hearts of the people of the 1- 2- 4 Project. Every year they volunteer to buy items to put in the boxes. They pack shoe boxes like nobody's business. In every box, we put crayons, pencils, pens, notebooks, markers, wash clothes, soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, coloring books, stuffed animals, play dough, candy, and some type of small toy. It is quite an undertaking to pack 200 + shoe boxes but we work as a team to form an assembly line and pack, pray, laugh and simply enjoy the fellowship while reflecting on the blessings that God bestows upon us. Together, we help bring Christmas to Children around the world.

This is a great example of the saying "Many hands make light work". This is proven by all the volunteers that come out. We have over 10 volunteers who come out for an afternoon of packing fun.

I'm always amazed at the thought of how much joy a small shoe box can bring to the children who receive them.

I asked my Dad years later what made that Christmas so special? He told me that he charged a lady for a car repair she needed but she came back and gave him more because she said my father didn't charge enough for the work. I bet the very generous lady would never guess that her act of kindness would touch over 2,000 children.

Ruth





The Day God Taught Me That there is more to Fundraising than Raising Money

We had been working feverously for this day to come. It was the day of our Photo 4 You fundraiser. We had been advertising and preparing so that everything would be perfect.

Set up happened flawlessly. Of course, the computer decided to be temperamental, but when doesn't that happen.

We had prayed to have a steady flow of customers, but what we had could only be described as a slow drip at best. The team of 9 volunteers were sitting around hoping for customers to come, when through the door walked a man who asked if he could get a family picture done as a walk-in customer? "Of course" was our enthusiastic reply. So, he said he would be right back with his children. He came back with three children, two boys and a girl all dressed in their Halloween costumes'. It became apparent that the little girl was sick as she had no hair and her eyes were sunken back into her head. God had placed the right team member at the table for that moment. Our team member Linda who also just happens not to have any hair was there to greet. You ought to have seen the little girl's eyes light up, when Linda let her rub her head and said "See I am just like you."

They went back to get their pictures taken and then the kids stayed back with the team to play while the father came out front to see the pictures. I was supposed to be making the sale with the pictures, but it soon became apparent, that there wasn't a whole lot of money to be had.

The little girl was 8 years old and had been diagnosed with leukemia and the outcome was not good. I am not sure where the

mother was in all of this. The father ordered one picture as that was all he could afford. There were two others that he really wanted, but he had to make a decision. One of the pictures was of the two little boys. He said that he really didn't have many pictures of them, but he had several of the daughter since she had received her diagnosis. He chose the picture of the family instead.



When they left, we immediately went back and ordered the two pictures that the father had a hard time choosing between. Something touched my heart with just seeing that father and meeting that little girl that will probably not make it to 9. Sometimes we think we have things so bad, and then you meet a family like this!

So did we make any money that day at the fundraiser? No but 1- 2- 4 Project is a whole lot richer having had the opportunity to meet this family and share some time with them and hopefully give them a memory.

The fundraisers we do are what God lays on our hearts to do and the outcome is His as well. Our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and **He will supply all of our needs.**

Cindy

The Road We have Taken

The 1- 2- 4 Project is now two years in God's making. We started out as a group with a common goal to conduct mission trips to help the local people. The discipleship that is created by Steve and Cindy Shriver is one that has impacted hundreds and hundreds of people over the last 24 years. They along with a group of very dedicated people created the 1- 2- 4 Project. Cindy and Steve have been a very positive influence in my life since the first year I was able to go on a

Mission Trip in 2010. They have helped me grow as a person and a Christian seeing people for who they really are and not to look at just the superficial. One of the things I love about being part of this group is that I can be myself and be honest without someone judging me. The friendships I have gained from the circle they have brought together continue to carry me through the good and the bad that occurs in my life. The group that makes up the 1- 2- 4 Project love to help not just one another but other people who can use it the most. It is amazing to me that we have people who attend several different Churches but we all come together to create the 1- 2- 4 Project with the goal of changing the world one project at a time. **Thank you** to each and every one of you who are reading this letter. Without you the 1- 2- 4 Project would not exist. Your donations over the past two years have helped to touch lives around the world!



Volunteer? Who Me?

So, you probably already know that 1-2-4 Project is a non for profit agency. Being one of those, we rely on donations and volunteers for a lot of things. As a group one of our most successful efforts to help raise money is volunteering in a vendor booth at the University of North Carolina football games. The most memorable one of those for me was the game on October 8th against Virginia Tech. You might recall it was rainy that day. But it wasn't just any ordinary rainy day, there was a hurricane looming off the coast by the name of Matthew.



I won't lie, being a gloomy, windy, rainy day, of course I would rather stay home and watch movies snuggled in my favorite blanket. But, that's not what we signed up for. There will be hungry excited fans counting on us to be there to serve them warm food, sodas, and snacks. And serve we do. We are amazed at how many devoted fans from both teams show up to root their team on. We are busy doing many things, getting soft drinks, making hot dogs, serving popcorn. Space inside our booth is really limited, so during our most busy times there are a few collisions. I'm glad we are such good friends. During the game we would receive compliments on how efficient our booth is at serving customers, but more importantly, how friendly and courteous we are. When it all boils down to it, the proceeds we earn are nice, but we are really there to be examples of God's love. So what started out as a questionable day turns in to a great experience. Yeah, it's a God thing!

Laura



More courage than most

I had known Shereen for a few years when the opportunity for her to go to Puebla, Mexico came up. She was asked to be an English teacher and she didn't hesitate to say "Yes." I remember being shocked at the fact that this very young, soft spoken person would pack her belongings and move to another country trying to get an English school off the ground. I remember thinking I would not have had the courage to move away from all I had and everything I worked so hard for; giving it up to stay in another country. All of this without having friends and not knowing the language. This would have not been my first choice. But she did and the 1-2-4 Project

worked to support her while she was there. That care came in the form of weekly skype calls and bringing her a little bit of home when we took missions trips to Mexico. She was the first missionary that we placed in the field. A stay that was supposed to be only 4 months turned into a much longer journey! Here are a few of her thoughts from her time in Mexico.

Looking Back

It's hard to believe I lived in Puebla, Mexico for a year and a half. And almost as hard to believe that I have been back in the states for 6 months. As I reflect on my time in Mexico, I recall laughing at myself, with my students, and with friends. I cried until I thought that it was impossible to have any more tears. I saw new places and met new people. I wrestled with a new language that beat me many times and left me eating food I had no idea how I ended up with. I saw things that broke my heart. I grew in ways I still don't think I understand.

I was challenged if God was enough (He is). And I felt a loneliness that I had not felt in a really long time. I have a love for my students that I am not sure that they are even aware of and I miss them like crazy. I learned to wake up before the sun. I tackled buses and taxis- and was successful most of the time. I tried new food and found some favorites (esquites, molotes, cemitas, and guaravas). And I loved the custom of greeting by putting your cheek to the other person's cheek and kissing (the air really).

I learned the many roles a teacher takes on... a teacher, a resource, a facilitator, a counselor, a friend, a disciplinary, a mentor, an encourager, a planner, and I am sure I am still leaving things off. I saw people adapt to another culture to share the love of Christ. I came to treasure the fellowship I have in other believers.

I was challenged, and I have been changed. It was an incredible time in my life that I would not change for the world!

Shereen

As you just read there is joy as well as struggle in going to another country. The 1-2-4 Project is looking for people of

God to work as teachers to continue the work Shereen started. Are you interested in learning more about yourself teaching English as a Second Language please contact us. The 1-2-4 Project look forward to supporting you as we did Shereen!



Contact Information



GIVE US A CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TRIPS, TRAINING, AND INVOLVEMENT

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