



Ministry to the Port of Houston HISC Christmas Shoebox Program

www.houstonSeafarers.com

HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL SEAFARER'S CENTER

HOWARD T. TELLEPSEN SEAFARERS CENTER

9750 High Level Road; Houston, TX 77029

P.O. Box 9506; Houston, Texas 77261-9506 (Exit 29 off East Loop I-610)

PHONE: (713) 672-0511

[Click for 2023 HISC Seafarers Christmas Box Wishlist Alternative & We Will Do the Packing for You](#)

Dear Christmas Shoebox Program Supporter,

We would like to express our great appreciation and sincere gratitude for your continued support to our gifting program to Seafarers in the Port of Houston Ship channel. We are once again “knocking” at the door of your generosity for the **2023 Christmas Shoebox Drive**. This year, as in past years, your gifts and donations are critical to our program and in many cases is one of the few ways that brighten the life and provide a tangible presence to the Seafarers calling on the Port of Houston in December. Many Seafarers are still not able to leave their vessels for months. Also, in some cases their contracts may have been extended for months and they have no way to get home to their families over the holidays. The **Houston International Seafarers Center (HISC)** has remained vigilant in our mission to be there for the Seafarers throughout the year with our various services and our friendly presence. We still see and counsel with many who are dealing with war strife and families being displaced to other countries. We need your help now.

Ship crew sizes average 22 Seafarers to gift per ship. In 2022, we received and distributed 9,173 gifts on-board 403 ships which represented Seafarers from more than 61 different countries! These gifts had been donated to the Seafarers by over 179 churches, organizations and individuals! The Christmas shoeboxes are personally carried to each ship by HISC Staff, Port Chaplains, and Ship Visitors – *Your* Staff of Chaplains and Ship Visitors, as our ecumenical ministry is funded by all denominations. We begin delivering boxes after Thanksgiving and continue gifting Seafarers until all the gifts have been distributed! We are gratefully prepared to receive your gift boxes anytime – you cannot be too early or too late in bringing your gifts to our Seafarers Center inside Port Houston.

Please try to pack a shoebox full with new items such as these:

Note: Full-sized items are much preferred over small travel size. Please no liquid soap, bar soaps or bottled water

Stress Ball / Mini Games	Band-Aids (fabric)	Light Weight Work Gloves (M, L and XL)	Popcorn / Snacks
NESCAFE Instant Coffee	Lip Balm	Pocket-sized Notebooks	Gum & Hard Candy
Deodorant	Nail Grooming Kit	Cold Weather Caps and Balaclavas	Sewing Kit
Toothbrush/Toothpaste	Q-Tips	Ballpoint Pens	2024 Pocket Calendar
Multi-Vitamins / Fish Oil	Socks	Word Search/Sudoku/Fill-in books	USB Flash Drive
Razors / Shaving Cream	Small Bibles (NIV, RSV)	3-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash	Texas Key Chains
Hairbrush/Comb	Baseball Caps / Beanie's (NEW)	Earbuds/Headphones	Playing Cards
Mini-First-Aid Kit	T-shirts (NEW) M, L, XL	Small Flashlight w/ batteries	Texas Magnets and Keychains Souvenirs
Insulated Tumblers	Small Whistle	Bible/Devotional materials – Daily Bread, Open Door, etc.	Signed Personal note or card

These gifts of Love should be packed in shoebox size boxes, wrapped securely as one unit in Christmas paper. Please do not wrap lid and box separately or place bows on the boxes. **Plastic shoeboxes become an extra gift for the Seafarer!** The Seafarers appreciate these items tremendously. Please be sure your boxes are packed full of items! Thanks in advance for your consideration. Our Center is located now at 9750 High Level Road. We are the first building on the left after the Main entrance to Port Houston at exit 29 off the East Loop I-610. You are encouraged to visit, tour and have your picture taken while at the Seafarers Center when you deliver your boxes. If you have questions or want to let us know you are coming – **please call 713-672-0511**.

[Click for 2023 HISC Seafarers Christmas Amazon Wishlist Shoebox Alternative & We Will Do the Packing for You](#)

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9750 High Level Rd Houston, TX 77029

Mon – Fri: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Sat-Sun: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM