

## Recycling and Repurposing Shoes



We have a new opportunity to add something different in an effort to grow our Recycling Fund. This project is quite simple. Just collect new, used, and gently worn shoes in your congregation and community. This effort is to be completed in the concentrated time frame of November 15, 2018 through January 30, 2019. Then, please bring your collected bags of shoes to the February 2, 2019 BOD meeting in Moore.

Supplies needed: 33 gallon trash bags and rubber bands

Prepare shoes collected in this manner: Laced shoes, just tie the laces together by pairs of shoes. Non-laced shoes, bind together in pairs by using rubber bands. Place paired shoes into a 33 gallon trash bag. Keep count of the number of pairs inside the trash bag. Place 25 pairs into each 33 gallon trash bag. Mark on an outside label of the bag the number of pairs of shoes inside the trash bag.

### **Shoes not acceptable are: roller skates and ice skates.**

All other shoes, including boots, heeled shoes, tennis shoes, golf shoes, flip flops, etc. are accepted. All shoes need to be clean and in good condition.

These shoes will be collected at a central point in Midwest City and then they will be picked up via truck. Once transferred to the company's warehouse, weighed, and graded, a check will be sent to the LWML OK District for our efforts. We have a commitment of at least 100 bags of shoes with 25 pairs of shoes in each bag.

These shoes are then repurposed. They are sent to third world countries to support micro-enterprise vendors. These are small businesses in these developing countries. They are typically operated by one person or a family and friends, depending on size. By repurposing these shoes, we are helping others in these countries to have a job, provide shoes for many people who need them, and help to create economic sustainability in nations that need it the most.

Environmentally, your collected shoes, also means we are keeping shoes out of landfills. In the US alone, approximately 600 million pairs of shoes are thrown away each year. The materials used to manufacture shoes are created from chemical compounds; the kind that will create health hazards if left to disintegrate openly or in landfills.

So join this effort, search your closet for shoes that are new, used, and gently worn. Share this project info with members in your congregation, your neighbors, business associates, your community, etc. Use the informational flyer, door hanger, poster, and bulletin or newsletter article to get the word out about this effort. It might surprise you as to how many pairs of shoes you can collect in a short period of time. We need people from all across Oklahoma to be involved in this effort to make it a success. We are counting on you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Marguerite Christman

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