

18 November 2011

Press Release

## **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES BRIGHTEN UP LIVES OF CHILDREN ACROSS THE WORLD**

**Boxes of presents are on their way to children in one of the poorest countries in the world after their plight touched the hearts of students at Cambridge Regional College.**

One hundred and twenty brightly wrapped Christmas shoeboxes, filled with cuddly toys, balls, picture books and small toys, were put together for the Operation Christmas Child appeal to help children in Kyrgyzstan – many of whom have never before received a present.



CRC Business and Childcare students with the Christmas shoeboxes

The collection was organised by Melissa Lee, CRC's Learner Tutorial and Liaison Officer, who said the response from the students had been fantastic.

"To collect 120 boxes is an absolutely wonderful achievement and we're delighted with the donations from the students. We asked them for help and they responded brilliantly," she said.

"Our tutorial champions, CRC Student Union and some very dedicated staff have been actively involved in the shoebox campaign. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine.

"Each one of these boxes will make a real difference to a child who might otherwise not receive anything."

Kyrgyzstan, which borders China, is one of the poorest countries of the former Soviet Union. The shoeboxes will be transported there by a team of volunteers from Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest children's Christmas project. Last year nearly 1.2million shoeboxes were packed with gifts and sent from the UK to underprivileged children across the world.

It is run by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organisation which works across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia helping children hit by war, poverty, famine and disease. This year, CRC's Student Union has chosen Samaritan's Purse as its charity of the year and is planning more fundraising for the organisation over the next few months.

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## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.