



News Release

For Immediate Release:

Local Families Send Boxes Of Hope

Generous Bloomington residents change lives by sponsoring and helping American families in rural poverty.

Plainville, CT—May 2, 2004— With the help of The Box Project, a national, non-profit organization, people in our community are making a difference in the lives of families living in rural poverty in America.

The Gardner family of Bloomington, Indiana is just one of your neighbors helping those in need. Phillip and Tammy Gardner, along with their daughter Corey Nikirk, have been sponsoring a family of 3 in Mississippi for over 3 years. Their match family includes a mom and her two children. One of the daughters is the same age as Corey; and a great new friendship between the girls that has enriched their lives. “I wanted my daughter to appreciate what we have and understand the responsibility for us to give back” says Tammy. “We wanted to personally help a family, not just give money to a “cause”. The most rewarding part of being a sponsor family is the personal touch it allows us to have with someone. It is amazing how just one box a month can mean so much to someone in need. Our match family is very appreciative, often sending pictures of the children wearing clothing we have sent. It is very heartwarming to know that a simple long distance calling card from us lets them keep in touch with their loved ones.”

The Box Project acts as a matchmaker, pairing sponsors with carefully screened individuals or families that need help. The goal of the program is to help them become self-sufficient and overcome the cycle of poverty. The sponsors offer long-term friendships, including encouragement, advice, and boxes of needed supplies about once a month. Sponsors and recipients communicate directly with each other through letters, or phone calls. They send boxes of food, clothing, or supplies directly to the families. As they come to know each other more, trust and friendships grow—providing a positive and valuable experience for both the recipient and the sponsor.

This Family Match program is unique in offering direct communication between the matched families and eliminating the middleman. Sponsors control how much time they spend and what finances or resources they want to contribute to their matched family. Often they will get their own families, friends and social groups to assist them with their sponsorship, all the while offering the opportunity to teach their children the value of helping and learning about other people and cultures

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Our Mission: Encouraging families and individuals living in rural poverty in America to become self-sufficient and overcome the cycle of poverty by offering them friendship, education, and material aid.



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“You are not just being asked to give to a cause”, said Cindy Shearer, President of The Box Project. “You are helping John, Kathy and Camille—a family you’ve come to actually know and who give you friendship too.”

The Box Project sponsors are matched with families in rural areas of Maine, West Virginia, Virginia, Mississippi, and Kentucky, as well as Native Americans on reservations of South Dakota. Currently over 450 families have been screened and are on a waiting list for a sponsor and friend. The Box Project also offers limited time sponsorship matches during the holidays, and welcomes donations to support and expand our education programs and other services. For more information about how to get involved, go to www.boxproject.org or call 800-268-9928.

About The Box Project

The Box Project, Inc. is a national, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Founded in 1962, The Box Project has been working to help people living in areas of the United States with the highest rates of rural poverty. We seek to ease the effects of poverty and increase mutual understanding through friendship, education, and material aid. With the help of our referring agencies, we seek out families who want to better themselves, work, and learn, then provide programs to support their growth and success.

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