



News Release

For Immediate Release:

Local Families Send Boxes Of Hope

Caring Orange County, CA residents change lives by sponsoring and helping American families in rural poverty.

Irvine, CA—April 20, 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 Carlsson family of Irvine, California is just one of your neighbors helping those in need. Libby and Dan Carlsson have been sponsoring a family of 4 in Kentucky for almost a year. Their match family includes a mother and her 3 daughters. "I wanted personal interaction between myself and another family. Growing up in New York City, we would drive through Appalachia to visit my Grandparents in Tennessee. I was touched by the beauty of the area and the poverty of the people, so I liked the idea of helping someone there" says Libby. "I really enjoy the ongoing communication with my match family. It's fun to shop for them and then wait to hear how they liked everything."

A recent box from the Carlsson family included party decorations, cake mixes, prizes, favors and gifts—all of the items needed for the 6 year old daughter's birthday party. This was especially touching, since she had never had a birthday party before!

The most rewarding part of being a sponsor family is the personal touch it allows sponsors to have with their match family. When asked about the rewards, Libby quoted Maya Angelou's statement "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."

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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