

**Ministry to the Port of Houston
HISC Christmas Shoebox Program – www.houstonseafarers.com**

HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CENTERS



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

LOU LAWLER SEAFARERS CENTER
1700 E. Barbours Cut Blvd.
La Porte, Texas 77571
PHONE (713) 672-0511

Christmas Gift Box Program 2020

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 this 2020 Christmas Box Drive. This year, due to the pandemic, your gifts and donations are critical to this program and may be the only way to brighten the life and console the seafarers calling on the Port of Houston in December. Seafarers are more isolated now than ever before and have not been able to leave their vessels for any reason for more than 6 months. Their contracts have been extended for months and they have no way to get home to their families right now. HISC has remained vigilant in our mission to be there for the seafarers throughout the pandemic and we need your help now.

Crew sizes average 22 seafarers to gift per ship. In 2019, we distributed 10,561 gifts on board 426 ships which represented more than 60 different countries! These gifts had been donated to the seafarers by over 200 churches, organizations and individuals! The Christmas boxes 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 one of our two Seafarers Centers.

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

**** Note: Full-sized items are much preferred over small travel size**

Hairbrush / Comb	Band-Aids (fabric)	Baseball Caps (new)	2021 Calendar
Magnet Clips	Dental floss	Cotton or Leather Work Gloves	Disposable Razors
T-shirts (new)	Knit Stocking Caps	Mechanical Pencils and Pens	Lotion
Nail Clippers	Gold Bond Powder	Gold Bond Cream	Shaving Cream
Q-Tips and Kleenex	Deodorant	Water Based Hot Chocolate Mix	Soap & Shampoo
Toothbrush	Toothpaste	Gum & Hard Candy (No Chocolate)	Key Chains
Pocket-size notebooks	Lip Balm	Needle & Thread Sewing Kits	Playing Cards
Popcorn	Socks	Flashlight w/ batteries	Texas Souvenirs
Earbuds / Headphones	USB Flash Drives	Word Search/ Sudoku/ Fill-in books	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! As there are very few women on board the ships currently, we request that the gifts boxed be packed for male seafarers. Boot sized boxes are hard for the chaplains to carry so standard size shoe boxes are preferred.

Thanks in advance for your consideration. Our Houston Center is located now at 9750 High Level Road. We are now 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 and tour the Seafarers Center when you deliver your boxes to either Center. If you have questions or want to let us know you are coming - **call 713-672-0511**.

Howard T. Tellepsen Seafarers Center

Mon – Fri: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Sat-Sun: 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Lou Lawler Seafarers Center

Mon – Fri: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sat – Sun: CLOSED