

Update on Fill the Container

The container arrived in Irbil, Iraq safely!!! We had some unexpected hiccups along the way (especially clearing customs), and it took longer than we hoped, but we did it! The people were incredibly grateful, it gave them so much hope knowing that there were people on the other side of the world who cared enough to put this together for them. When they heard the story about our entire community coming together, every race, religion, age, school and group they were touched. Our container didn't just bring over 20,000lbs of physical supplies, it brought hope, joy and love to these people.

Many of the people we sent aid to are just like us. They were business owners, doctors, lawyers, school teachers, etc... Then all of a sudden ISIS came into their town and took over, killing many of their family members and friends. The people in these camps have been personally terrorized and experienced the tragedy of losing loved ones before their very eyes. Devastated and now homeless and in fear for their life, even the smallest gift means the world to them and can give them hope for another day. Our gift did just that.

They distributed ½ of the container to the refugee camp in Irbil pictured below:



The other ½ was used to kick start an entire new refugee camp in Ranya (near the Iranian border). There were thousands of misplaced people living in abandoned buildings and parks with no food or aid of any sort. The government donated land for the refugee camp, but they needed supplies to get started, and our supplies arrived just in time for that! These refugee camps supply a sense of community to people who have lost their town, family and friends. Without the camp they are lonely wanderers in great danger of being found by ISIS alone and vulnerable. They also have no source of food or supplies other than what they can find in the streets.



All of the goods have been distributed! I want to take the time to personally thank every single one of you who helped to Fill the Container!!! Many of you sacrificed your time, money and energy to make this happen. You saved lives and made a huge difference. I hope you understand the severity of their situation and the incredible impact that your sacrifice had on their lives.



Pictures of refugees in the camp and receiving supplies!



World Compassion is an incredible organization who has been working in Iraq for over 12 years and they will continue to remain there helping every day. I want to personally thank them for allowing us to partner with them. I also want to thank **YOU** from the bottom of my heart for all you did. If you desire you to continue helping the refugees please visit www.worldcompassion.com.

Below are pictures of the process of Filling the Container:



Above is Eric using a forklift to load up the container with over 20,000lbs in food and supplies!

Below is one of our packing days, lots of supplies coming and in amazing people showing up to help sort and pack!



On the right are members of a local food pantry (Serve One) who joined forces with us and donated some of their supplies to help.





On the left are some supplies that arrived right at the end. We had almost everything we needed, but we were 2 pallets short in supplies and we didn't know where they were going to come from when a man (who wanted to remain anonymous) called me and offered to buy everything else we needed to finish!!! It was a miracle and the container was full.

On the right is one of 2 storage units we used to collect and house the supplies until we were ready to fill the container and ship it.



On the left are the local girl scouts who came together to collect supplies. They were so excited to help other kids in the refugee camp that were their age.

On the right are kids unloading a van full of supplies that were donated by a local church.



On the left are local kids helping collect supplies from their school. We had so many kids get involved, it was beautiful.

On the right is a local business (Allstar Collision) who was a collection center. We had over 20 local businesses all over the city volunteer to be collection sites.





To the left is my daughter Reese painting boxes for all the drop off centers and collection sites, we had over 40 all over the city including churches, schools, business', etc.... There was so much work behind the scenes and if you were a part of that I want to thank you!

There are too many people, businesses, churches, groups, clubs, etc... for me to be able to mention everyone in this letter. So this is my big thank you, thank you for all you did. An extra big thank you to my family for all of your hard work and support and to Solomon Shapiro. This could not have been done without you.

Thank you,

Chelsea Dischinger