

## WHY CPFI?: FINDING THE FAITH TO SERVE



### ‘TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Have you packed a shoebox lately? If not, Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is the way to go. What’s Operation Christmas Child? Operation Christmas Child is a ministry project by Samaritan’s Purse, an

“A NONDENOMINATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION PROVIDING SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL AID TO HURTING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.”

international relief program which established the program in 1970. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is found in its slogan, “Good News. Great Joy” bringing the hope of Christmas to children around the world in the form of a shoebox full of toys. This project was undertaken by several CPFI student chapters around the country sending hundreds of shoeboxes this last Christmas. Here are some of the stories from CPFI members:

Operation Christmas Child is an opportunity for me to give a child something that parents might not be able to provide to them because of their circumstances. Growing up, I didn’t always get the flashiest gifts for Christmas but I knew that my parents were working hard and doing their best to provide the necessities for my siblings and me. As a child, seeing the bigger picture

can be hard, but Operation Christmas Child yields an opportunity for us to lend a helping hand to parents who can’t provide as much as they would like. God has blessed me tremendously and if I can share some of those blessings with others in whatever way possible, I will never hesitate. I thank God every day for opportunities like OCC in which we have the opportunity to share God’s love and blessings through simple gifts from the heart!

- Jerron Lartey



On the evening of November 16, the CPFI chapter at UNC collaborated with the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) chapter at the UNC School of Dentistry to pack 91 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Students enjoyed dinner from Panera as well as desserts brought in from other students before packing shoeboxes while listening to Christmas music. One of the favorite parts of the project was getting to collaborate with like-minded students from the dental school, and the UNC CPFI chapter hopes to collaborate with them more in the future for other events to expand UNC’s Christian community. God’s presence was felt through the shared love and encouragement, both for each other and for those who would be opening the shoeboxes halfway across the world. It was humbling to be able to come together amidst the busy exam season

to be able to serve and love those less fortunate just as Christ did!

- Sarah Griffin

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Operation Christmas Child is such a creative ministry project that is a fun way to get everyone involved in sharing the love of Christ through giving. I had the opportunity to participate in this ministry with my CPFI chapter at Palm Beach Atlantic University and was reminded of what a blessing it is to give to others what has already been given to us. I thought that I would be bringing so much joy to children in need, but instead God used this simple act of packing a shoebox to remind me how much greater it is to give than to receive. I can remember the excitement and joy I felt as I wandered the aisles of the store to pick gift items for that little girl or little boy who was going to receive my shoebox, whomever they were, and wherever they were. My prayer was that the love and joy of Christ would be felt in their hearts as they received the gifts. It is easy to forget that even the seemingly mundane and small things can have the most significant impact on others. I was humbled and reminded that amid chaos, I still have so much to be thankful for because we already have received the greatest gift, which is eternal life and everlasting joy in Christ.

- Pakou Vang

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November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 brought a different kind of atmosphere to the Sullivan University College of Pharmacy auditorium. This was the day for packing Operation Christmas Child boxes. You could tell by looking at student faces that true Christmas spirit was in the air. This spirit turned a classroom from a stressful learning environment for students into a place where CPFI members could pack the love of God into a shoebox. The beautiful thing about being a CPFI member is that it helps you take a step back and observe the bigger picture. Having these types of moments during a rigorous graduate program makes a difference that is beyond compare. As an advocate of CPFI, and vice president of the Sullivan University chapter, I always say that I love this club because it reminds you that pharmacy school should not completely consume your life.

It was amazing to be a participant in this event and be a part of something that will help spread the love of God. Simple things like a toothbrush, soap, or a stuffed animal can be taken for granted in a country that is so blessed. A simple toy to us will become someone's joy overseas. Some of the places that our boxes will make an impact are Madagascar, Colombia, and even hard to reach places where Christianity is illegal. However, the excitement does not stop there. Children overseas were not the only ones affected by Operation Christmas Child. The students that gathered items, packed, and wrote messages for the children were also deeply impacted. A few businesses also witnessed the power of God's love. Most of the items that were toys or stuffed animals came from Dollar Tree. Clearing the entire shelf of toys in multiple carts caused cashiers and surrounding customers to also witness the love of God as we explained how the items would be used. Before we shipped the boxes, the packing volunteers prayed over the boxes asking for God's safe delivery and for His message to be shared. Operation Christmas Child is very important to us and we look forward to participating in the years to come!

- Matthew Pancake

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This year at SWOSU, we packed and sent 34 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This was our biggest total in a few years, and we had approximately 20 students who helped pack and pray over the boxes. Personally, I have participated in Operation Christmas Child for the past 3 years and every year I love it even more. I enjoy the feeling of giving back what the Lord has graciously given me and blessing children with Christmas presents who may otherwise not get anything. Sometimes in the rush of school and the holiday season, we lose sight of what our mission here on Earth really is- to spread God's love.

I believe that Operation Christmas Child really allows us to work on that mission and get our minds back on what really matters, and I hope to be able to continue participating in Operation Christmas Child.

- Ashley DeVaughan

## MEDICAL MISSIONS: FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

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From November 10 – 12, 2016 the city of Louisville, KY hosted the Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) where hundreds of medical professionals and students came together to take a step toward fulfilling the great commission in their lives. From ministry exhibits to breakout sessions, GMHC can be summed up in two words: faith and engagement. Here are some insights from our members who attended the conference:

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CPFI was an exhibit partner again this year at the GMHC in Louisville, KY, and was excited to be able to participate at the partner level at this amazing three-day event. GMHC provides a great opportunity to network and learn from fellow healthcare professionals that also have a heart for the domestic and international mission fields. For the first time this year, CPFI also hosted a special Meet and Greet event which was open to all pharmacy colleagues attending the conference. The Meet and Greet provided an opportunity to demonstrate CPFI's

commitment to one of its core values by *providing Godly encouragement and fellowship among like-minded professionals*. The Meet and Greet was well-attended with approximately 50 participants throughout the evening who came together to eat dinner, enjoy fellowship, and learn about more about CPFI. It was a pleasure to meet all the students that came to the event at GMHC 2016, representing a variety of pharmacy schools/colleges from around the country. Thank you for your commitment to CPFI, and I pray that it continues as you develop into great Christian pharmacists, dedicated to serving Christ and the world through pharmacy!

- Jordan Daniel

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I will say that the GMHC was one of the best conferences that I have had the opportunity to attend. It opened my eyes to what to look forward to for medical mission trips in the future. One notion that I took from the conference was that as a young person, I should not



waste my life living for my own personal gain, but I should use it to follow God's will and serve Him wholeheartedly. Something else that spoke to me was having knowledge and respect of other cultures before I go to another country which will have a different culture than what

I am familiar. One of the main topics that was mentioned throughout the conference was the Syrian war and how the Syrian people had to flee their homes and find refuge in other countries. GMHC had a simulation of what the people of Syria go through during this time, and it increased my understanding. After attending the GMHC, I have a better picture of what my purpose is in life as I go out on mission trips. There is much more to mission trips than I initially thought, and I am thankful for having the opportunity to attend this conference. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for me in the future, and I look forward to going to the next conference in 2017.

- Didrick Jean - Baptiste

## MAKING IT TO ASHP

CPFI started as informal gatherings at the national meetings of pharmacy organizations. Since then, CPFI has developed into an organization with its own mission, annual meeting, and global impact. Still, it is a blessing to see the types of gatherings that laid the groundwork for our organization over 35 years later. Our simple gathering at a busy sandwich shop in Las Vegas probably did not look like much, but for all who attended it was a moment of encouragement and Christian fellowship in the midst of a fast-paced conference. Colleagues from all corners of the country came together. Some were, through past CPFI meetings, dear friends who have been a network of spiritual support. Others were new friends, including students, residents, and experienced practitioners from across the country who are dedicated to serve Christ and the world through pharmacy. Undeniably, CPFI has made significant impacts on the mission field, in legislation, and on the campuses of our schools/colleges of pharmacy. However, this dinner was a refreshing reminder of the immeasurable value of CPFI to me as an individual.



- Daniel Wilson

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Have you been to ASHP midyear during your years of pharmacy school? For first time attenders, it can be quite the overwhelming experience! There are a lot of people as this represents the largest gathering of pharmacists in the world. In fact, the 2016 meeting set a record for having the highest attendance. The meeting took place this past December in Las Vegas, NV and for students it featured an exhibit hall, student poster presentations, residency showcase, and a keynote speech delivered by Peyton Manning! Amidst all the activities at the conference, CPFI students took time to gather in fellowship for an evening at Earl of Sandwich restaurant in Planet Hollywood. Gathering with other Christian pharmacy students, whether it's at the CPFI annual conference or regional retreats, has been like a breath of fresh air throughout the years of school. Having a community of believers offers fellowship in times of loneliness, prayer in times of searching, and encouragement in times of stress. Pharmacy school can bring about all of these emotions. Thankfully, CPFI students have one another for support along with a big God whose love is steadfast.

- Tristram Ford (P4)

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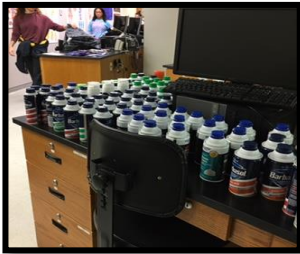
## SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH HANDS AND FEET

What does it mean to serve? To wait on someone? To hold the door open? To work in a soup kitchen? I believe that these are examples of service but what makes the true impact is the principle behind the service. In Mark 10:44 – 45 (NASB), Jesus states, “and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Jesus’ means consisted of service and obedience to the Father by which power moved and transformed lives forever. With the Hands and Feet grant, CPFI chapters can serve their community as Jesus did. Here are some testimonies regarding those chapters that received the grant:

With the Hands and Feet grant the Wilkes University CPFI chapter assisted our professor, Dr. Marie Roke Thomas, in her mission to help the many homeless individuals of Luzerne County.

Named the "Backpack project," we fill over 250 backpacks with the necessary essentials which unfortunately the homeless in our community cannot afford.

The items we put into the backpacks include a comb, deodorant, soap, shampoo, razor, shaving cream, toothbrush, tooth paste, socks, hat and gloves. Since the bags are given right before Christmas, the students also placed a Christmas card with words of encouragement and candy cane in the backpack.



Since so many items are required for this community project to be a success, Dr. Roke Thomas begins collecting items as soon as the last project is complete; therefore, this is a yearlong effort.

Once December rolls around, more than 40 students from the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at Wilkes University come together to fill the backpacks. The filling process takes about an hour and a half. Once the backpacks are filled, a few students drive the backpacks over to the local community service clinic after which the backpacks are to then distributed prior to Christmas.



- Olivia Schlottman

In the Fall of 2016, the Palm Beach Atlantic University CPFI chapter was blessed to be the recipient of the CPFI Hands and Feet Grant. Shortly after receiving the grant Nicole Edquist, PharmD, an alumni and past president of our chapter also donated to further our ability to make an impact. Since receiving these resources we have been working with St. George Episcopal Church, located in Riviera Beach, Florida, to determine their needs and how our chapter can commit to being a consistent presence not only throughout this semester but also in years to come. As we embark on this New Year, it is our hope that we will see some of our ideas put into action. These ideas include seeing electric hand dryers placed into the men and women’s bathrooms, providing basic toiletries, Bibles, water bottles, and clothing, and allowing services such as showers and HIV screenings to occur more frequently. The leadership at St. George is willing to allow us to contribute whatever we would like based on what we feel the needs may be. Therefore, it is my hope and desire that as we spend time at this ministry that the Lord will show us how we can best serve the needs of His people. We are excited to see how the Lord will use our CPFI chapter in the upcoming semester!



- Jason Bowen

## OPERATION: PHOTO OP

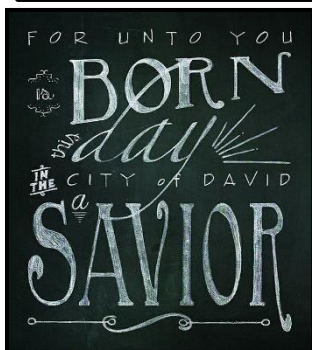
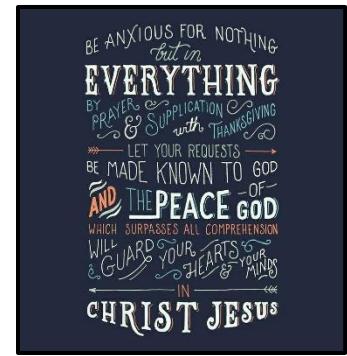


ACROSS THE COUNTRY,  
CPFI MEMBERS ARE  
WILLING TO GIVE BACK  
AND BRING JOY!

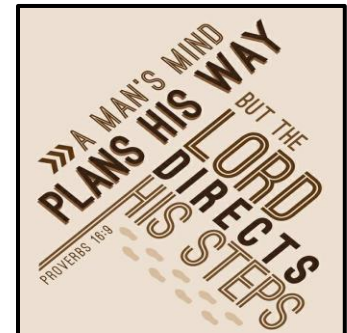


## ANYONE UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

This past year we had the CPFI Christmas Challenge and the WJD 2016 Challenge.



AS OF THIS PAST YEAR, WE'VE UPPED  
THE ANTE AND SPREAD GOD'S WORD  
THROUGH MEDIA TO BRING BOTH  
STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT!

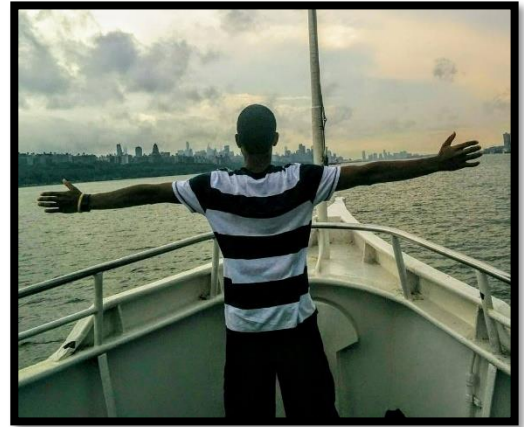




# The WHAT DID JESUS DO (WDJD2016) CHALLENGE

The WDJD Challenge was introduced to allow members to share what Christ did for them in 2016 with the expectation that the same God that brought us through will get us through the next year. Here's a testimony by Jason Bowen, current president of CPFI at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

As I reflect on 2016, there are many memories and feelings that rise to the surface. I am blessed to say that there were many highs. For starters, I got engaged to my high school sweetheart of 8 years! Still a bit surreal but a happy moment for sure. A close second was being able to lead my first person to Christ. Praise the Lord for another soul that will spend eternity in heaven! During the year, I also had the chance to travel to New York to see my cousin graduate from high school, saw several friends get married, could participate in a medical mission trip to Dominican Republic, presented my first poster at the FSHP Annual Conference, had a poster published through ASHP and saw my friend undergo a



successful kidney transplant! Yet, I must say that 2016 was also my most challenging year of pharmacy school. Almost weekly I found myself struggling to keep myself above water in at least one class. It created quite a bit of stress and caused my body to become quite ill during the spring and fall semesters. However, through the struggles, challenges, doubts and long odds, the Lord never left my side and because of His strength, grace, and mercy I could successfully complete both semesters. Despite these struggles, the toughest part of 2016 was losing Grace Son, a childhood friend of mine. She had been very sick for several years and passed away on August 5th. Although I miss her presence I am comforted in knowing that she is no longer suffering but in heaven where I will see her again. So, with 2016 in the books, I enter 2017 ready to see what plans the Lord has in store for you and I! So, have a great year and may God Bless always! #WDJD2016 #ToGodBeTheGlory

## WHAT'S UP AND COMING



Registration for the CPFI conference this June is now open! For more details and to register, head over to <http://www.cphi.org/annual-meeting>.

## SOCIAL CORNER

Come and join us on the CCC: CPFI Chapter Community group on Facebook.

You can also find us on Snapchat, Instagram, and Twitter at [cphi\\_students](#).

Has your chapter made an impact in your community or globally? We want to hear about it. Email us at [nsc.publicist@gmail.com](mailto:nsc.publicist@gmail.com) and you might be featured in the next newsletter.

Looking to shore up your faith? Check out CPFI's own journal, Christianity & Pharmacy. You can find it at the following link: <http://www.cphi.org/journal>