

# Ministry to the Port of Houston – [www.houstonseafarers.com](http://www.houstonseafarers.com)

## HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS' CENTERS



### HOWARD T. TELLEPSEN SEAFARERS' CENTER

9250 High Level Road (Upper Wharf 23); Houston, TX 77029  
P.O. Box 9506; Houston, Texas 77261-9506 (Exit 29 off East Loop I-610)  
PHONE: (713) 672-0511 FAX: (713) 672-2444

### LOU LAWLER SEAFARERS' CENTER

1700 E. Barbours Cut Blvd.  
P.O. Box 1434 ; La Porte, Texas 77571

## Christmas Gift Box Program 2016

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

A toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo and a bar of soap, a Texas souvenir and Jesus; what do these things have in common? ... They are all gifts.

For God so “loves” the world the he gave his only Son ... A Christmas box well filled, given to a seafarer to remind him or her that they are not forgotten or ignored shares a similar love. Simple things mean a lot to men and women at sea. Maybe the best gift is to be remembered and honored by receiving a gift from someone you will never meet. Maybe the best gift is to honor someone with a gift without knowing who will get it. God's Love is freely given to us, so let us love one another and honor the sojourner/seafarer while he or she visits our shores.

Crew sizes vary between 8 and 30, with an average number of 22 seafarers to gift per ship. In 2015, we placed 12,278 gifts on board 538 ships which had seafarers from 65 different countries! These gifts had been donated to the seafarers by 246 churches and organizations! The Christmas boxes are personally carried to each ship by your staff of Port Chaplains—“your staff of chaplains” because we are funded by denominational mission funds in this ecumenical ministry. We begin shortly after Thanksgiving and continue gifting seafarers until all the gifts have been distributed! We are gratefully prepared to receive your gift boxes anytime—you can't be too early or too late to bring your gifts to one of our two Seafarers' Centers!

Please try to pack a shoebox **FULL** with items such as these:

ADDRESS BOOK  
BAND-AIDS (FABRIC)  
BASEBALL CAPS  
2017 CALENDAR  
COMB  
DENTAL FLOSS  
DEODORANT

DISPOSABLE RAZORS  
FLASHLIGHT W/ BATTERIES  
KLEENEX  
LIP BALM  
LOTION  
NAIL CLIPPERS  
GOLD BOND CREAM

GOLD BOND POWDER  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
NEEDLE & THREAD  
Q-TIPS  
SHAVING CREAM  
SOAP & SHAMPOO  
TOOTHBRUSH

TOOTHPASTE  
GUM & HARD CANDY  
KEY CHAINS  
POCKET-SIZE NOTEBOOKS  
MECHANICAL PENCILS  
PENS  
PLAYING CARDS

POPCORN  
SOCKS  
SUDOKU  
TEXAS SOUVENIRS  
T-SHIRTS  
USB FLASH DRIVES  
WORD SEARCHES

The seafarers appreciate these items tremendously. Please be sure your gift box is packed full of items! **As there are very few women and children onboard the ships these days, we would request that the gift boxes primarily be packed for male seafarers.** Please avoid including items that will melt or break, and pack batteries separately from the items they are powering.

These gifts of love should be packed shoebox size, **WRAPPED SECURELY** as one unit in Christmas paper. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP LID AND BOX SEPARATELY. Please do not place bows on the boxes.** Plastic shoeboxes become an extra gift for the seafarer! You may want to include your email address, name and address, or the name and address of your church or group, inside each box. You may receive a thank you note from a grateful seafarer!

You are encouraged to visit the Seafarers' Center and bring your boxes to either center (see maps on back). Year around we appreciate donations of the timeless National Geographic & Reader's Digest magazines; current news, entertainment, auto, sports, and technology magazines; jigsaw puzzles and other games; and DVD's. Questions? Call 713.672.0511 or email [houstonchaplains@yahoo.com](mailto:houstonchaplains@yahoo.com)

### **Howard T. Tellepsen Seafarers' Center**

Monday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

### **Lou Lawler Seafarers' Center**

Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.