



real people making
a real difference



Dave Cooke

In 1990 Dave Cooke and his wife Gill, after seeing the terrible images of Romanian orphans on the television, decided to do something about it and with the help of friends and family put together aid wagons ready to drive across Europe. They hoped the medical supplies, beds, blankets and clothes would radically change the horrific conditions in which these children were living. What they didn't know (and no-one knew) was that the few thousand shoebox gifts that went across with the convoy from Wrexham would grow into the biggest shoebox programme in the world! Operation Christmas Child was born.

In 1994 Operation Christmas Child was amalgamated with the American led International Charity Samaritan's Purse. Dave resigned from his job as Contracts Manager for a Window Installation company and became Overseas Projects Manager, delivering shoeboxes all across the world whilst developing their soccer programme & Second Chance programme; taking sports and games to street-children and juvenile convicts.

From those years pioneering new programmes and visiting new countries grew the seeds for Teams4U.

Dave founded Teams4U in 2006 after experiencing the atrocities of the Beslan crisis when over 300 people were killed in a school attack in Russia.

In 2014 after years of being asked repeatedly to do shoeboxes again he agreed and relaunched the shoebox program as it was originally.

'A gift from one person to another person, no strings attached!'



Dr Dave Cooke

In 2017 Dave was recognised for his invaluable contributions to international charity work by being presented with an honorary doctorate from Salford University.