



## ***SHOES FOR IRAQI CHILDREN COLLECTED***

By John Connor  
Gulf Region South district



Barefooted Iraqi children [USACE Photo by Betsy Weiner]

**TALLIL**, Iraq – The spirit of generosity associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district headquartered on this base in southern Iraq has found a new area of expression.

Shoes for Iraqi children is the latest cause to be embraced by the greater Gulf Region South district family, thanks to the efforts of Robyn Comeau, wife of GRS resident engineer Charles Comeau.

"My wife has started a shoe drive at home to collect shoes for Iraqi children," Comeau said. "So far, she has over 200 pairs of shoes."

Robyn Comeau, with the help of Century 21 Williams and DR Horton Homes, indeed has launched a shoe drive back in Houston County, Ga. She is looking for support from the local business community, both for shoes and shipping expenses.

Comeau plans to hand out shoes while visiting job sites in southern Iraq where GRS has built and is building a multitude of projects such as health clinics, water compact units, electrical substations, roads and bridges.

GRS, one of three regional Corps of Engineers districts in Iraq under the Gulf Region Division, covers the nine southern provinces of Iraq.

The Comeaus' efforts come on top of two other initiatives undertaken by the GRS family.

The first, which is well-established, is an effort to collect and distribute toys and stuffed animals to Iraqi children.

The second is a recent effort, already bearing fruit, to collect warm clothing for distribution to needy Iraqi children and women as the weather turns cold. Boxes of warm clothing have started to arrive from the U.S. and more are anticipated.

As for the shoes, Comeau won't be surprised if the total reached 500 pairs before it's all over.

**Note:** John Connor is a Public Affairs Officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, call 540-665-2656 or email requests to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).