

## Civitans ship off their shoeboxes

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**Photo: (L-R) Lissa Monroe, Katherine Lantz, Melissa Enfinger, Lydia Broadway and Renee Lantz get ready to load up the packages for the Millbrook Civitan Club's delivery of Operation Christmas Child goodies.**

**Photo: Special to The Indy**

**By BRIAN HODGE**

The Millbrook Civitan Club recently collected 25 shoeboxes of goodies from its own members and others from the general public for Operation Christmas Child. The program provides a shoebox, usually containing small toys, crayons, even hard candy to needy or orphaned children in other countries.

Each box is accompanied with a spiritual message provided by Samaritan's Purse, the organization that administers Operation Christmas Child.

Anya Johnson of Millbrook shared her story with The Independent a few weeks ago. As a 9-year old orphan in Russia Anya received a gift box through Operation Christmas Child. Anya said she felt bitter and distant from God. But her attitude changed after receiving the unexpected gift from strangers. Inside was a toy doll that Anya named Hope. Now a grown

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woman Anya says she still has Hope.