

# Metro/Region

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

The Tennessee Scene, B2

Religion, B3

Weather, B6

B

## Students fill shoe boxes with gifts to brighten Bosnian kids' holiday

By Frances Meeker  
BANNER RELIGION EDITOR

The students at Grassland Middle School in Franklin saw the faces of Bosnia's homeless, hungry and cold children on television.

They wanted to help.

So the students filled 55 shoe boxes with gifts, including toys, small items of clothing and other personal items like toothbrushes and combs, which will be shipped overseas this week as part of Operation Christmas Child.

"The students know about what is going on in Bosnia, they know that children there are being maimed and killed and that they are living under very stressful circumstances," says Nicole Revette, a Grassland Middle School teacher and student council sponsor.

Operation Christmas Child is sponsored by the national relief organization, Samaritan's Purse, which airlifts the shoe boxes to children affected by war, famine, disease and other crises around the world.

The goal this year for Operation Christmas Child is 500,000 shoe boxes.

"There is something special about the boxes we sent," Revette says. "Our boxes are shoe boxes donated by Durango Boot Cere, and they hold a lot more than

ordinary shoe boxes."

The Grassland students also enclosed a letter in each box to the child who will receive it.

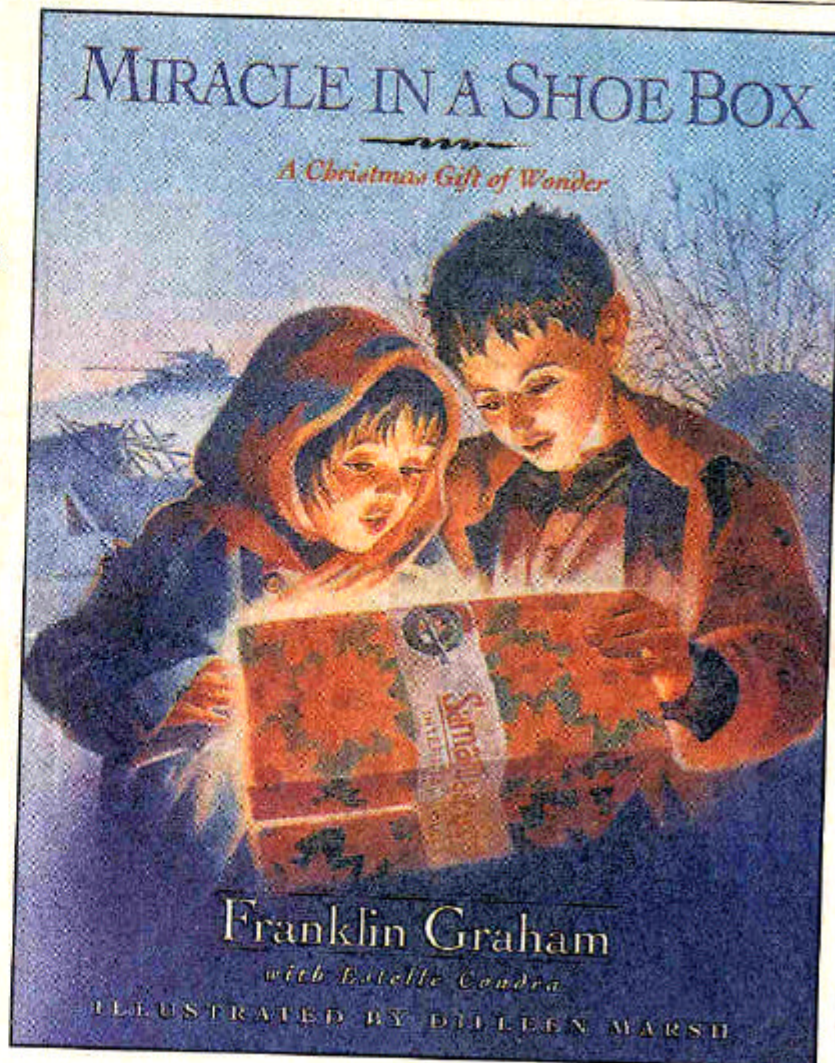
Helping to deliver the shoe boxes overseas will be Barbara James, whose son Stephen is an eighth-grade student at Grassland.

James is manager of telemarketing at Thomas Nelson Publishers in Nashville, which is publishing the children's book *Miracle in a Shoe Box*.

The book, written by Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, and Estelle Condra, a Nashville storyteller and children's author, follows one of the shoe boxes on its journey from a brother and sister in the United States to a brother and sister in Bosnia.

Thomas Nelson Publishers, which also is publishing Graham's autobiography *Rebel With a Cause*, is involved in the real life counterpart to *Miracle in a Shoe Box*.

In addition to encouraging bookstores across the country to participate in Operation Christmas Child, Nelson collected nearly 500 shoe boxes from the employees of the corporation's various divisions.



Operation Christmas Child will try to bring the story of the children's book *Miracle in a Shoe Box* to life by delivering gifts to children in Bosnia.

Please see **BOSNIA**, page B2