

Hospitality Ideas

June 2016

Christmas in June ... or Anytime!

Anytime during the year is a good time to throw an **Operation Christmas Child** party.



At our church, we are asked to bring small items all through the year for the shoebox project. Large boxes placed throughout the church remind us there will come that special time to pack shoe boxes. **The goal is to pack 100 extra boxes besides the ones individuals bring for the project.**



Why not have an **Operation Christmas Child** party? It can be



anytime. Have as many guests, any age, as you can handle. Each guest brings 12 of the same item (soap, combs, toothbrush, crayons, toy cars, small stuffed animals, etc.) You can e-mail Samaritan's Purse (www.samaritanspurse.org) and they will send you the boxes already decorated and a video of their ministry.



Start the party by watching the video as a group while someone lays all the items on a table. After the video, **talk to your guests about what will happen to the shoe boxes and how sending them to destinations for children will be showing Jesus to children around the world.** The guests then take a shoe box and walk around the table choosing items to fill it.



Have some refreshments, make a card to go in the shoe box and then **gather in a circle and have prayer for the children who will receive the shoe boxes.** The nice thing about this party is that it is a giving party. No one goes home with a treat bag.



This could be done as a birthday party for a child, at a family reunion as an activity or as a get-together in your neighborhood. The fun is doing something for others in a very **easy, simple way. AND, it might not even be stressful!**

