



#### CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Top, Kandi Edwards, a Whitfield County 4-H agent, delivered a Hero Pack to Drew Kite. Above, Molly Locklear, a senior Whitfield County 4-H'er and ambassador for Operation Military Kids, delivered a Hero Pack to Jacob Denney.

## 4-H club gets involved with distributing packs

Recently, a local member of the Whitfield County 4-H Club delivered Hero Packs to family members as part of Operation Military Kids. Operation Military Kids (OMK) is a partnership including Georgia 4-H, the Boys' and Girls' Club, Army Child and Youth Services and the Military Child Education Coalition.

One way OMK provides support is through the packing and distribution of Hero Packs. Since June, 2005, 4-H'ers at statewide events have packed more than 900 Hero Packs for youth in deployed families.

The packs include a backpack with items to deal with the stress of missing a loved one and to communicate with that loved one, such as a disposable camera, ink pen, 4-H Liberty Bear, 4-H bandana, journal and Georgia Friendship Bracelet.

The packs also contain handwritten letters to the youth thanking them for their service and a "Parents Pouch" with information about support for spouses of deployed soldiers and opportunities available locally through 4-H and the OMK partners.