



*"Making it Christmas everyday by Paying it Forward"*

**Santa's Pantry, Inc.**

[www.santaspantry.org](http://www.santaspantry.org)

[www.payitforwardindiana.com](http://www.payitforwardindiana.com)

## May 2010 Newsletter

Over 25 nonprofit organizations braved the weather with us on May 1<sup>st</sup> for our first annual Pay it Forward Day in Elkhart. Even though the day started off rainy, it turned out to be a beautiful day allowing many to enjoy the free activities taking place. We were able to award the winning teams from the bed race and tug-of-war events with checks for \$100 at the end of the day for their charity of choice. Pay It Forward Day was very rewarding for us. We had a local student do some of the artwork for our signs. He felt as though he would not go far in life, that he had artistic talent but it was not "good enough". While working on our signs, a person from the Art Institute saw his work and raved over it. He has now decided to pursue a career in art. "Paying it Forward" often has a way of touching others that we never know about. We feel very blessed to know of this young mans story and how his kind deed effected his life in the end. If you are interested in being on the planning committee or participating in Pay it Forward Day – Elkhart next year, please let us know.

Santa's Pantry will be holding our first yard sale in June in hopes of raising enough money to purchase our own tug-of-war rope and purchase supplies to finish making our own bed race bed for future events to help other nonprofit organizations. Tug-of-war ropes are very expensive, averaging around \$300. We estimate the supplies still needed for the bed to be around \$100. If you have anything that you would like to donate for our sale please let us know by June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will post the date and location of the sale soon.

We have one of the gardens in now and plan to have the others in this weekend. The gardens benefit local food pantries and soup kitchens. While writing the check for the garden supplies, I was sharing about Santa's Pantry to the clerk. I have to say, I was a little overwhelmed when she in turn started sharing with me about how grateful she was for Santa's Pantry! She was laid off last Christmas and had received a few of the 1700 books we collected from the Borders bookdrive. With those books, she was able to provide gifts for her children and she was very grateful. We don't usually meet the people that directly benefit from events that we hold but once in awhile we are given gentle reminders like this that we are truly making a difference in peoples lives and doing what we're suppose to do.

Our annual car wash will be August 21<sup>st</sup> at Gurley Leep on Bypass Road again. The car wash helps us to raise funds to cover our yearly insurance for our events. If you would like to purchase a coupon for only \$3 please let us know.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with events such as the Bristol Community Pay It Forward Festival on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and the Santa Run on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know.

Pay It Forward!