



Santa's Pantry, Inc.

www.santaspantry.org

"Making it Christmas everyday by Paying it Forward"

October 2009 Newsletter

We are excited to tell everyone that we now have our 501C(3) license. It was a long process to obtain it but it was well worth it. It has opened many doors for us now.

Our first annual Pay it Forward Festival on October 17th was a huge success. We estimate that between 400-500 people attended. We would like to thank everyone that participated in this event. We never could have done it without all your help and your donations. We have had many requests to do it again next year and Yes, that is our hope also.

We have several things coming up from now until Christmas. So many in fact that I can't begin to list them all in a brief newsletter.

We will hold our annual "Deuel Project" again this year at Lintons Enchanted Gardens. This kicks off at their Christmas Open House on November 7th and 8th. Bring your kids and your **own** cameras and take as many pictures as you want in exchange for food donations. Like last year, children will get to pull a coupon from Santa's bag as their gift. We have the "top" gifts listed on our website and they are amazing!

We are also holding our first Santa's Shoppers Pay it Forward event at Borders Bookstore. We will be raising book donations for the unemployed in Elkhart and St. Joe Counties. This kicks off on November 13th and 14th. We will offer free take-home crafts and activities for children, a free performance of Christopher's Christmas, a Prince and Princess parade with Miss Cass/St. Joseph County, local authors will be signing their books from the Talent for Giving group and Santa will be reading to children. Be sure to print the coupon below and take advantage of the 10% savings on your purchase during our kick off of this event!

Please help us raise money by using the coupon below for Hacienda on November 22. Santa's Pantry will receive 20% from your purchase. The money raised will help stock the shelves at a Elkhart food pantry.

We start our Letters from Santa on November 30th and run until December 23rd. We will be working with the Elkhart post office again this year for this event. We have already started receiving letters!

I do want to share a fast story with everyone. For our festival we received a donation of chicken gift packs. Each one contained two whole frozen chickens and condiments. We gave them to the winners from our Pay it Forward essay contest. One winner asked that hers be donated to someone struggling. I contacted a pantry for a reference and learned of two homeless families that had recently moved into a small apartment together. Only one person is receiving disability, no one else is receiving income. We donated the gift pack to them. When they received the donation we learned that they had a total of 12 children in the apartment and food was scarce. Because of this, the mom was feeding the children and not eating herself. It had been three days since she ate. We were blessed with the donation to give, then the person who won the contest (who wants to remain anonymous) blessed someone else. That's Paying it Forward and that's awesome to witness!

Many of you have asked how you can become involved or help with Santa's Pantry. We need help in the following areas at this time:

Distribution of fliers/coupons for our Santa's Shoppers Pay it Forward event- We would like to be located at restaurants in Mishawaka on the mornings of Nov. 13th and 14th and hand out the fliers as well as pass them out to family and friends before hand. This is a fundraiser for Santa's Pantry and we need to get out as many as possible.

Distribution of Hacienda fliers- We need to get these out to as many people as possible also. The money raised from this will help a Elkhart pantry that has had to close their doors recently because they did not have food to give. If you have a group or organization that you could give them to or maybe your church, that would be great.

Write Letters – Last year we returned over 100 letters to children and we expect even more this year. We have a sample letter to follow.

Food and toy donations – We are in need of food and toy donations for our local pantries. If you have anything to donate, please let us know.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of Santa's Pantry. We truly appreciate it!

Pay it Forward!

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