



**GOOD SAMARITAN NETWORK OF HAMILTON COUNTY, INC.**

*During the holidays, things often become even more difficult for low-income families, and it's very common for the children in these families to go without during the holiday season.*

*A **HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE** for needy children in our community can be fun and easy, and it won't take a lot of your time.*



# Tips for Running a Successful Holiday Toy Drive

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A few tips to run a successful holiday toy drive that can make a difference in the lives of needy children and families this year.

## Start by Setting the Dates

You'll need both a distribution date and a collection date for your toy drive. It's usually best to plan around the actual distribution date for the toys you collect.

- **GSN Christmas Assistance: December 10, 2022.** *(Note: We continue to serve clients thru December 24. We will still accept your generous donations after the distribution date!)*

Work backward and decide on the date you want to start collecting the toys. Remember, the more time you allow for the drive, the better. *(Don't start the week of Christmas and expect to be able to get all those toys out in time for the holiday.)*

## Plan Your Drop Offs

You can drop off toy donations every day of the week at our warehouse (9am-4:30pm). During the distribution week (Dec. 7-9/ Wed., Thur., and Fri., 10am-7pm) you can drop off food and toy donations at our holiday off-site venue (Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds, Noblesville – Halls A, B and C). Receipts are provided for all donations.

### Office/Warehouse:

**GOOD SAMARITAN NETWORK**  
12933 Parkside Drive  
Fishers, IN 46038  
317-842-2603, x200  
info@gsnlive.org

## Spread the Word

Start by spreading the word in your neighborhood or office, and getting others involved in the promotion and planning is key. It's also a good idea to go beyond the neighborhood or office and spread the word to friends and family members. Tell everyone you know what you're doing. Many people will enjoy having the chance to spread some holiday cheer to children in need – regardless of where they live!

Make sure you promote the toy drive as much as possible. Add toy suggestions and ideas of your own for the event. Create signage and flyers that give the details of your toy drive, including collection dates, drop-off points, and other details. Get those flyers up as soon as possible. You may want to share flyers with local businesses as well since many businesses are happy to get involved in holiday charity events like toy drives.

## Designate a Drop-Off Point

You'll need to designate a drop-off point, and it's important to ensure your drop-off point is in an easily accessible area so people can get to it with their toy donations. You may even want to have multiple drop-off points, so you bring in more toys. It's a good idea to attach your sign/flyer to the bin you're using so it's very clear that it's the drop-off point. *(Ex: 2 bins for small size neighborhoods or maybe 4-6 bins for larger neighborhoods.)*

It's also a good idea to go ahead and put a few toys in your drop-off bins. Sometimes people can be wary of an empty bin. People are more likely to donate toys if they see others have already donated toys, so grab a couple of donations to put in each of your drop-off bins to get things started.

## Sort and Process

Designate teams to regularly pick up the toys. You can also sort them by age groups before delivery if you like (not required). This will make processing at the point of donation/delivery much easier for GSN volunteers. However, if you don't have time for that, no worries. We'll handle sorting and processing upon receiving your donation at our warehouse.

## Social Media

Even though the collection boxes are a fantastic place to start your holiday gift drive, social media may assist you while boosting the number of donations. Taking drives online is a great point of communication/saturation. Email is a convenient way to contact friends and family to let them know about the campaign. You can post all the information about your toy drive on social media. Even if someone wants to bring toys but doesn't live close, you can give them an address.

## Have a "Toy" Party

Why not plan one big night of fun... have a "Toy" Party! Is your neighborhood, family or office throwing a holiday party this year? If so, make it a holiday "toy" party. Have everyone bring a toy as the "ticket" for getting in. You can easily set a price limit so people don't feel like they have to spend a lot of money on the toy. It's a fun way to get more people involved in the toy drive. *(You could schedule a few "toy parties" from summer until the Holidays!)*

## Promote, Promote, Promote / Good Knows No Bounds

Put up your sign/flyer everywhere possible! Talk it up daily! Ask friends to spread the word office, church, neighborhood, posts / via social media. If you like, let us know the details so we can help promote via our website and social media.

## Think Out Of The Box

There are no limits to "Toy Drive" creativity. Use your imagination. Involve kids. Involve churches and schools. Think about creating an online opportunity for people to donate from the ease of their own home or device. There are free



giving platforms that enable groups and individuals to make a real impact in their local communities by providing a safe, measurable, tangible way to help those in need. For example:

GSN's "giftster" wish list, <https://www.giftster.com/gift/public/Q15S1/>

Of course, you can even start your own group and wish list to share with others:

example, <https://www.giftster.com/>

example, <https://yougivegoods.com/>

## Donate For What Age Group?

The majority of people love to donate "baby or infant" items. Which is certainly helpful. However, our largest need by age is 10-12-year-olds, and youth/teens!

Visit our website for a short list of Toys & Gifts donations for boys and girls, or click on these **PDFs** for more information and ideas.

*Click here:* [GSN Age-Specific Listing and Suggestions](#)

*Click here:* [GSN Toys/Gifts Suggestions](#)

## Go Ahead...

*Take the step to start a holiday toy drive - you'll never regret the time and effort you spent on this great cause and in making a family feel cared for this Christmas!*

[info@gsnlive.org](mailto:info@gsnlive.org)

**Just let us know** if you are planning a toy drive (we'll be very encouraged) – or contact us if you have questions or need help! Thank you!