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Peter King > **MONDAY MORNING QB**

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MMQB (cont.)

Factoid of the Week That May Interest Only Me

Things like this press release come across my desktop quite often, maybe 50-75 times a year. "PeyBack Foundation awards more than \$500,000 in grants to 104 community agencies." It was an item about **Peyton Manning's** annual distribution of money to needy groups in Indianapolis, Tennessee and New Orleans, the three places he's lived, been schooled and worked in his life.

What was different about this one was the magnitude of it. Food banks, local arts centers, tutoring and mentoring groups, youth centers, the New Orleans Ballet, the Knoxville Zoo, the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, Trees Indiana (a steward group overseeing the planting of enough trees in the state), and more kid-related support groups.

I want to make it clear that Manning is not the only player who does good charitable works, and if the press release came from the charities of **Jason Taylor** or **Brian Dawkins** or **Drew Brees** or **Derrick Brooks**, I'd have taken a look at it and maybe made a note of it, or maybe not. I think what caught my eye were the 104 groups getting a chunk of change, and how disparate they were.

I called a couple of them to see about what the money meant to them. School on Wheels, which tutors homeless school children in Indianapolis, got \$5,000. Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans got \$8,000.

"You'd be surprised at the number of homeless children in Indianapolis," said **Janet Hiatt** of School on Wheels. "In any given year, it's about 1,500. We have 11 locations around the city, with about 400 volunteers, and we're tutoring about 400 to 450 children each year. The \$5,000 from Peyton's charity is valuable because it gives us the endorsement to go to other foundations to get larger gifts to help us exist. His \$5,000 covers one month of tutoring at one of our centers. Then, once a year, he gets the kids out to the local Children's Museum, and he meets them and interacts with them. He's been really valuable to our agency."

"The money we get from the [Manning] foundation, we put into our backpack program," said **Heather Sweeney** of the Second Harvest Food Bank. "We put together backpacks of food to send home with children for the weekend who would be at high risk of chronic hunger. There will be maybe 10 to 12 meals and snack items in there, kid-friendly and nutritious. This year, we have 678 children in the program who will benefit from the weekend backpack program. The foundation has been really good to us. We got a grant from them right after Katrina, which helped a lot."

Just thought you'd like to know about some good being done out there.

And speaking of good things, how about **Michael Irvin** raising \$140,000 -- including \$40,000 of his own money -- for the family of paralyzed Dallas scout Rich Behm the other night?

Enjoyable/Aggravating Travel Note of the Week



Giving back to communities where he's lived and worked is important to Peyton Manning. Getty Images

Peter King's Mailbag

Peter King will answer your questions each week in Monday Morning Quarterback: Tuesday Edition.

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