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Findlay Backyard Mission Trip Concludes Organized Annual Event, Transitions to Community-Based Service Model

After more than a decade of mobilizing volunteers to serve neighbors across Hancock County, the steering committee of the Findlay Backyard Mission Trip (BMT) has announced that the organized annual service day will conclude.

Launched in 2010 through a partnership between College First Church of God and the City of Findlay's Neighborhood Enhancement and Abatement Team (N.E.A.T.), BMT began as a one-day event focused on yard work, minor repairs, and painting for homeowners. It quickly grew into a countywide movement.

At its peak, BMT mobilized hundreds of volunteers from more than 30 churches and organizations, completing as many as 200–400 projects in a single season. Over the years, thousands of volunteers served families across Findlay and Hancock County.

From the beginning, however, the vision was larger than a single Saturday.

"Our goal was never just a one-day event," said Karl Heminger, Committee Chair. "The intention was to inspire a lifestyle of service; for churches and individuals to regularly serve their congregations and neighbors."

In recent years, the committee has seen that shift take root. Many churches and community organizations now independently organize service projects throughout the year. In light of that cultural change and the evolving needs of the community, the steering committee believes this is the right time to transition into a new era.

What Happens Next

While the formal annual BMT event will conclude:

- The website, www.findlaybmt.com, will remain active for now.
- Residents needing assistance are encouraged to contact their local church.
- Community members may also seek help through Hancock Helps at www.hancockhelps.org.

In addition, collaboration continues with local partners such as 50 North, whose chore and maintenance crews provide:

- Light plumbing and electrical work
- Installation of grab bars and handrails
- Wheelchair ramps and step repairs
- Lawn mowing and snow removal (by lottery)
- Gutter cleaning, leaf pickup, bush trimming, and minor exterior maintenance



“There will always be a need for neighbors to serve neighbors,” Heminger said. “Backyard Mission Trip proved that Findlay will show up. Now we look forward to seeing that spirit continue, not concentrated on one day, but lived out every day.”

For more information, visit www.findlaybmt.com

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