



PRESS RELEASE

City of Akron 166 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308

(330)-375-2345 Fax:(330)- 375-2468

Web: www.akronohio.gov

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie York, Director of Communications
syork@akronohio.gov or 330-375-2345 (w) / 330-289-1467 (c)

The Big Day of Serving Comes to Akron

Hundreds of Teenagers Unite to Transform Akron Neighborhoods



Akron, OH (October 10, 2012) - On Saturday, October 13, hundreds of

teenagers from will converge in Akron to bring help and hope to our citizens in need. They will unite to work on projects such as painting, landscaping, cleaning and beautifying city blocks, alleyways, and parks, planting community gardens, removing graffiti, and cleaning vacant lots.

Known as “The Big Day of Serving,” this massive joint effort is organized by Group Mission Trips—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Since 1977, Group has hosted nearly a quarter of a million participants and provided more than six million hours of volunteer service



directly to people in need, making a real difference by serving elderly and disadvantaged people while also having fun working with friends and meeting other teens from the area.

In anticipation of The Big Day of Serving, Akron community director, Tony Myles, says, “This year in Akron will be incredible due to the partnership we’ve forged with the Mayor’s office. Our projects will include rebuilding park benches, cleaning a skate park, building Reindeer Run at Lock 3 and more.”

“I am amazed at what well-organized youth groups can accomplish in such a short period of time,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “At the end of the day, our citizens will enjoy renewed pride in their parks and neighborhoods. I am truly thankful for The Big Day of Serving and all of its volunteers.”



City of Akron projects will include (weather permitting):

Constructing “Reindeer Run” in Lock 3

Reconstructing park benches – these will go in various neighborhood and community center parks around town, but the construction will take place in Lock 3.

Akron BMX Track (1000 Massillon Rd) – replacing boards and bolts on bleachers, painting them, and mulching area

Akron Skate Park (1000 Massillon Rd) – power washing to remove graffiti

All American Soap Box Derby (1000 Massillon Rd) – painting wall on back of grandstands, painting tunnel that goes under the track **This project is weather dependent**

Shadyside Park Gazebo (1235 Kenmore Blvd) – painting and staining gazebo

Tot Lots – mulching (2-3 crews will hit these throughout the day)

- Ed Davis Community Center (730 Perkins Park Dr)
- Perkins Tennis Courts (NW corner of Edgewood Ave and Euclid Ave)
- Lane Field (630 Vernon Odom Blvd)
- Summit Lake (380 Crosier St)
- Heinz-Hillcrest (1780 Highway Ave)
- Prentiss Park (1999 East Ave)
- Davenport Park (2756 Mogadore Rd)

Attendees include church youth groups from around Ohio and Pennsylvania:

- Ohio: Steubenville, Medina, Akron, Dover, Logan, Bucyrus, Cuyahoga Falls, Gallipolis, Columbus, North Canton
- Pennsylvania: Atlantic, Moon Township, Sandy Lake, Pittsburgh

The day is scheduled as follows:

- 7a-8a: Participants Check in at Lock 3 Park (200 S Main St)
- 8a: Kickoff Rally (Emcee, music, icebreakers, etc)
- 8:30a: Depart for projects
- 12 noon: Lunch at project sites (food provided by Montrose and Akron Chick-Fil-A)
- 3pm: Everyone leaves for the Block Party Celebration
- 3:20pm: Block Party (celebrating, sharing stories, music, etc.)

The Media is welcome to join the participants at any of the service locations or at Lock 3.

Those interested in more information about the Big Day of Serving can email Tony Myles at tony@connectionchurch.org. View the official page at www.thebigdayofserving.com.

The Big Day of Serving
Saturday, October 13
Akron, OH - (800) 366-8948
TheBigDayofServing.com

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