



VOLUNTEER TRIP - Paducah KY

Work & Partner Info

THE WORK

The most common question asked when planning a volunteer trip is, “What’s the work going to be?” The most honest answer is usually, “We don’t know.” The pace of recovery varies from week to week and needs can change unexpectedly. Projects within this recovery include repairs to homes with tornado and/or flood damage, as well as construction of new homes. Our groups have been tasked with installing insulation, hanging siding, mucking out basements, painting, and installing flooring or cabinets. Sometimes, however, the most pressing needs are for the light switch plates to be installed, the landscaping planted, or furniture moved in. Please come with the flexibility to tackle whatever needs exist.

THE RECOVERY

December 10, 2021, an EF4 tornado tore through western Kentucky resulting in significant widespread damage. In Graves County (Mayfield), their Long Term Recovery Group noticed an issue impacting the largest group of survivors in their area: resources were limited for rebuilding rental properties, despite the fact that more than 70% of the home damage in the county was to rental housing. Record inflation and skyrocketing costs for building materials made repair costly, so many landlords who had purchased homes as foreclosures and vastly under-insured them simply left. Renters had no affordable options available and were being priced out of the ability to recover well.

With some strategic thinking and creative partnerships, Mayfield Graves County LTRG has created the A New Lease on Life program, placing displaced renters into permanent housing, not through new construction, but using partners, volunteers, and donated items to repair and improve existing vacant homes throughout the community.

In July 2023, historic rainfall caused severe flash flooding in Mayfield, washing away roads and damaging more than 100 homes. About half of those affected by the floods had already sustained damage to their homes from the Dec. 2021 tornado. Unlike the tornado, the flooding received very little national news coverage and did not reach the threshold for a federal disaster declaration. With community resources already stretched thin, the LTRG has struggled to gather the resources needed to assist folks affected by the floods.

Week of Compassion volunteers may work in support of LTRG home-repair projects, A New Lease on Life homes, or flood recovery projects – or some combination of all three! The gifts that volunteers share with this community alongside the leadership of the local community is one way we live in mutual care and accompaniment.

Read stories directly from Week of Compassion and our partners:

<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/stories/category/tornado>

<https://recovermayfieldgraves.com/survivor-stories/>



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Housing Info & Packing List

HOUSING

- Housing is at **First Christian Church in Paducah KY**: 415 Audubon Dr, Paducah, KY 42001
- Volunteers stay in bunkrooms that have twin size bunk beds – you'll need your own bedding!
- The church has wifi throughout the building, which you will be welcome to use.
- You will have use of a full kitchen that is well-outfitted with pots, pans, utensils, etc.
- Showers are at the PAC (community athletic facility), near the church. Bring your own towel!

WHAT TO PACK

- towel & washcloth
- pillow & TWIN SIZE bedding
- toiletry items
- work clothes that can get messy *must be covered from shoulders to knees*
- (long pants and long sleeves are often recommended, sometimes required)
- casual clothes (check the weather!)
- jacket or sweatshirt (the volunteer housing can be chilly)
- pajamas
- solid, closed-toe shoes
- comfortable shoes
- hat
- sun block
- insect repellent
- rain gear (depending on forecast)
- safety glasses
- work gloves
- nail apron
- reusable water bottle
- lunchbox or bag
- flashlight
- bible & devotional material to share
- personal items (cards, games, books) for evenings
- camera & battery charger
- cell phone & power cords

You may also want to bring some basic tools, including:
hammer, tape measure, square,
level, utility knife, pencils