



Just the Facts...

What is the Paint-A-Thon?

The Paint-A-Thon helps to keep low-income seniors and people with physical disabilities living independently in their own homes. Through the labor and generosity of volunteer teams, we restore not only the home itself, but the homeowner's sense of pride in their property and their community. Participating in the Paint-A-Thon is a great way to get to know your co-workers, fellow volunteers, or to spend time doing something truly worthwhile with friends or family.

How many homes does Paint-A-Thon paint each year?

Since 1984, Paint-A-Thon volunteers have painted more than 5,800 homes in the seven-county metro area. On average, volunteer teams paint between 125 and 150 homes per year, depending on the number of volunteers available. Paint-A-Thon assigns as many homes as there are paint teams. While there is never a shortage of qualified applicants, there is often a shortage of teams.

How does Paint-A-Thon select the homes it paints?

Paint-A-Thon begins recruiting early in the year via media releases, letters to senior centers, churches, neighborhood groups, city inspection departments, and by word-of-mouth. Applicants are screened to be sure they meet the income, age or disability, and single-family home requirements. In early spring, the homes are inspected by Paint-A-Thon staff to determine need and suitability for the program. Once team leaders register, homes are assigned based on their painting needs, but also the location and size preferences of a team.

Who volunteers for Paint-A-Thon?

Since 1984, Paint-A-Thon has put more than 100,000 volunteers to work. Our volunteers come from businesses, congregations, service organizations, neighborhood groups and families. We even have teams from youth groups, scout troops, and retiree groups. We are pleased to have such a diverse base of big-hearted people working with our program.

What does a Paint-A-Thon volunteer do?

Each team is coordinated by a team leader, who comes from the organization or group that is volunteering. Teams both prep and paint their assigned homes. Prepping includes washing, scraping, and priming, as needed. Prep days are at the team's discretion. Some teams complete the prep work the weekend prior to Paint Day, others select a few evenings prior to Paint Day. The total number of work hours involved depends on the size and condition of the house, as well as the number of volunteers on a team. In general, teams are between 10 and 40 people, and will spend about two to three evenings prepping and will paint from about 8:00 a.m. until the afternoon on Paint Day.

How does a team get assigned a home?

We begin looking for the size home you prefer to paint in the location you have requested. If a home matching that description is not available, we will either look for your second choice location or house-size, depending on which you indicated was most important to you. The size of your team and skill level are also taken into account. While it is extremely difficult to find a perfect match for each team, we make every effort to accommodate your strongest preferences.



Who provides the supplies?

Paint-A-Thon is very fortunate to receive many donated supplies. 3M, Padco, Graco, Manus Products, and Wooster Brush Company, are among our partners who provide donations. We also receive a combination of donated and purchased paint from The Valspar Corporation. We continue to seek other donations throughout the year. All other supplies must be purchased, borrowed, or otherwise commandeered by our teams.

What do I need to bring?

Your team leader will let you know. There may be things buried in your basement or garage that could be useful. A ladder? Some buckets? Perhaps an extra paintbrush or two? Old sheets to cover the bushes? Every little bit counts! Remember also to bring personal items that you need to work safely and comfortably, such as extra sunscreen.

Can we bring our children to help paint?

Of course! Paint-A-Thon welcomes volunteers of all ages, who can contribute to the work of the team. Our expectation is simply that children be well supervised and respectful of the homeowners and their property.

How do I become a team leader?

Simply contact the Paint-A-Thon office. We will send you a packet that contains all the registration information, timeline, and recruiting materials. As a team leader, you are responsible for recruiting team members, assigning responsibilities, taking care of supplies, and organizing the prep and paint days.

When do we paint?

Paint weekend is always scheduled for the first full weekend in August. In the event of rain or excessive heat, the Paint-A-Thon will take place the following weekend. Should a different date work better for you, contact the Paint-A-Thon office to see what we can arrange.

More Questions?

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