

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The HALO Foundation of Akron, OH to Deliver Aid to Asheville, NC Disaster Victims

Akron, OH – June 26, 2025 – The HALO Foundation of Akron, OH, is mobilizing a dedicated group of students and volunteers to provide critical support to Asheville, NC, on Monday, June 30, 2025. Responding to the ongoing needs of mountain communities devastated by recent disasters, HALO is sending two semi-trucks filled with supplies and will meet a third truck carrying bicycles and cribs to aid families living in makeshift housing or "tent cities."

The HALO Foundation, established in 2003 to raise funds for the Flight 93 Memorial, has since shifted its mission to disaster relief, focusing on underserved communities 6–8 months after initial disaster response efforts have subsided. This year, HALO identified Asheville residents who lack insurance and are struggling to rebuild, particularly in areas where roads were washed out. Recognizing the need for mobility, HALO has raised \$5,000 to provide bicycles, with ongoing fundraising efforts to support additional aid.

Mission Agenda – June 30, 2025

- **7:30 AM:** Students gather at McKinley Air, Akron-Canton Airport (5400 Lauby Rd, North Canton, OH, next to AVflight).
- **8:00 AM:** Flight departs for Asheville, NC.
- **9:30 AM:** Arrival at Asheville Regional Airport.
- **10:00 AM:** Volunteers arrive at ABCCM Warehouse (1845 Brevard Rd, Arden, NC) for a meet-and-greet, followed by assembly of bicycles and cribs.
- **Lunch Break:** Volunteers regroup and continue assembly.
- **Afternoon:** Distribution of bicycles and cribs to families in need.
- **2:30 PM:** Tour of the hardest-hit areas to assess ongoing needs.
- **3:30 PM:** Return to Asheville Regional Airport for departure.

Hosted By:

- John Bartley, Ohio Gratings
- Gary Didado, JW Didado Electric
- Fr. John Marcelli, St. Sebastian Parish

Student Volunteers:

- Sean Homesy, St. Mary's Seminary
- Julia Rea, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School
- James Kline, Hoban High School
- Sasha Paonnoa, Hoban High School

“The HALO Foundation’s mission is to combine the energy of youth with the wisdom of experience to bring hope and practical help to those in need,” said Sharon Deitrick, HALO Foundation contact. “Our PTA approach—Pray, Think, Act—guides us to deliver targeted relief, like bicycles for mobility, to families rebuilding their lives.”

For more information, to donate, or to support HALO’s ongoing efforts:

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About The HALO Foundation

Founded in 2003 to support the Flight 93 Memorial, The HALO Foundation became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit after surpassing its fundraising goals through the “93 Cents for Flight 93” campaign. Since the memorial’s completion, HALO has focused on disaster relief, rallying students and communities to provide essential supplies and support to those overlooked by initial relief efforts.

Media Inquiries: Please contact Sharon Deitrick to arrange interviews or coverage of the June 30 mission.



