

FALL 2025 News



Where Are They Now?

God has given us the privilege of working with and pouring our lives into college-age interns each summer since 2003. We offer this ongoing series of catching up with former interns and learning about how God has used Mission Indy in their journey of faith.



Lilliana Coyle

My name is Lilliana, and I interned with Mission Indy during the summer of 2024 as a part of my ministry major. As someone who did not have any skills in manual labor, I was uncertain as to how the internship would go, but I was excited to learn something new and get out of my comfort zone. Little did I know that learning how to build a fence would barely scratch the surface of the new things I would experience.

One of the main things I walked away with was a greater understanding of what it's like to work in community with others. Oftentimes, we learn how to serve, how to lead, or how to disciple, but not how to minister as a group. Ministry is not a solo endeavor and experiencing this firsthand taught me how essential it is to be unified as a group.

The first activity of the internship was a teambuilding weekend designed to help us connect before we began serving together.

I clearly remember our first activity and how frustrating it was to try to work together, but working through this in the beginning helped pave the way for much stronger team dynamics. These first few weeks were essential, and it was so wonderful to see how we changed as a team through the course of the summer. Because of this, I realized that in order to serve I must surrender my own ideas and expectations for whatever the Lord has in store. Sometimes this meant compromising with other people in the team when making decisions. Other times, it meant being okay with the fact that a week wasn't going to plan, or a project wasn't going to be completed on time. Matt and Ron continuously reminded us interns that we were there to disciple, not be project managers. That meant that on days when paint had to be scraped again or walls needed to be replastered, I could focus more on the conversations with the participants, rather than the stress of a deadline. Moments like these turned into important conversations I might have otherwise missed.

People are flawed and broken, and seeing the beauty of God's restoration in broken places is one of the greatest gifts I got to witness during this summer, not only in others but also in myself. I experienced grace from others when I didn't deserve it, was able to make mistakes and learn from them, and receive help from the team on hard days. We truly supported each other in whatever struggles we faced, and I left that summer feeling like I had a deeper understanding of what ministry was. It wasn't easy, but it was deeply rewarding. My summer with Mission Indy became an important part of my ministry major in ways I couldn't have anticipated but am so grateful for. Praise the Lord for wonderful surprises.

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We thank God for the testimony Lilliana has shared and wanted to let you know that she is currently doing her student teaching in the Canary Islands. She is living with a family and practicing her Spanish.

Many of you have been instrumental in making internships like Lilliana's possible, and we thank you!
As we reflect on the Summer of 2025 and plan for the Summer of 2026 we wanted to share a few pictures of the variety of things we experience.



Devo Time



Tool Checkout



Paver Installation



Team of Artists

Thoughts to Ponder:

In John 13, Jesus said He was giving a New Command – that they (and we) “Love One Another.” This is one of several “One Another” passages that we studied in our Devo Guide this past summer. Several things stood out, such as “Be Devoted to One Another (Romans 12:10), Serve One Another (Galatians 5:13 and “Carry One Another’s Burdens” (Galatians 6:2). First, most of these passages imply behaviors, and not just attitudes. The New Testament writers are less concerned with how believers feel about each other that they are their actions – their living together as a community and publicly as disciples. Second, the passages imply that we have to live them out. Thirdly, nearly all the “One Another” passages are instructions or commands about actual behaviors; not reminders of abstract spiritual truths that we enjoy thinking about. So, the way we love each other, serve each other, and bear one another’s burdens as members of one another tells the watching world around us whether we are really followers of Jesus. How are you doing with this?