

**Humans of Findlay is a documentary project based on the blog “Humans of New York.” The project was created to introduce many of the unique people of Findlay, Ohio. The man behind the lens and the project is Dave Morrow. Morrow has interviewed over 600 people of Findlay, ranging from age 5 to 102 years old, with a wide range of diversity and backgrounds.**

**On April 4, 2018, a proclamation was signed by Mayor Lydia Mihalik designating the day as “Humans of Findlay Day.” Each of the stories have been read up to 30,000 times, and can be located on [humansoffindlay.com](http://humansoffindlay.com), Humans of Findlay Facebook page, as well as in this monthly magazine. Know someone that you feel should be featured? Send a nomination on the Facebook page.**

## PAUL AUGSBERGER



Wow. (spoiler alert)

Every once in a while, I cross paths with someone who inspires in such a positive way that I come away uplifted and recharged in believing in the strength of humanity. I met such a man today. This is not a pity story. This is a story of hardship, grief, love, family, and community. The result of the love and the hard work of many people is a man I introduce to you. Paul is known for his smile, his friendship for all, his strong faith and never-ending energy.

Paul Augsberger, has lived

locally all his life, growing up in Pandora-Gilboa, graduating from high school there in 1972. He followed in the family business as a farmer, raising crops and hogs. His father passed away when Paul was 13. The community jumped in and helped his mom and her four sons with the farming. In 1977, a year or so after marrying his sweet wife Marti, Paul suffered a life altering injury when a grain auger fell on him breaking his back and leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

Paul credits his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the

love and strength of his amazing wife, family and again community, in his recovery and adapting to a new reality. When he had recovered strength, Paul had an International tractor retro-fitted so it would lift his wheel chair to the cab and let him continue to be a farmer. In 1993 his body again let him down when he broke a leg and

he was forced to give up farming. Not one to quit he looked to find what he could do and stay outside. He took up lawn mowing with a modified Grasshopper zero-turn mower. A close friend Ron Beach hired him, and they worked together for 10 years. In 2003 Paul struck out on his own and 15 years later has 16 customers, ranging from residential to Cooper Tire, which keep him busy up to 50 hours a week.

The mind and soul remained strong but his legs gave out in 2016 when he fell from his wheel chair and

broke both of them. The end result due to infections was having both legs amputated. Adapting again with modifications to his wheel chair Paul was quickly up and mowing again.

Being physically motivated is just a small portion of the man we received nominations to reach out to. He is an emotional and spiritual giant. From his picture you can see the sincere, radiating smile. His handshake is strong and firm. He looks you right in the eyes and asks for no pity. Not down playing his obstacles he feels very blessed. “I decided I wanted to live and have set my mind and soul to that effort. My amazing mother, who is 94, inspires me. My wife Marti is my strength. I have three wonderful grown children Adde, Gabe and Max who are my life.”

Paul offers this advice. “I know everyone has struggles and I don’t want to downplay them, but you can survive if you never give up, let people help you and make it a mind set you will not let the struggles beat you!”