



November December  
Vol. XLIV, No.6



## Volunteer Spotlight Award Recipient

Leroy Wilson has something he has to do – and that is volunteer his time. He is driven to contribute to Greater Cleveland Volunteers and its partner organizations.

He currently volunteers at three of Greater Cleveland Volunteers' partner agencies: the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Airport Ambassador Volunteer Program (Gold Coat) at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and the Southeast Clergy Meals on Wheels where he delivers meals and is on the Board of Directors.

At the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Leroy started as a greeter, then added volunteering at special events, assisting with exhibits, providing tours and serving as an ambassador at off-site events. He also serves on their Volunteer Advisory Committee.

Sarah Hartley, Volunteer Coordinator at Cleveland Botanical Garden states, "He has a tremendous positive attitude and an infectious insistence that other volunteers and staff inherit and nurture this trait. He believes strongly in Cleveland Botanical Garden and he has the ability to exemplify and describe that to our guests. Leroy provides top-notch service to our guests."



Leroy Wilson Jr

"God can give you so much if you open up. I've reaped many benefits from volunteering. I can't give it up" Leroy adds. "With all my blessings, I feel I have to do this."

For his commitment to volunteering by helping the community in a variety of positions, Greater Cleveland Volunteers is proud to present the 2016 recipient of the David F. Leahy Award for Volunteer Excellence to Leroy Wilson Jr. He received the award at our annual benefit, Sparkle: The Magic of Volunteering . Also honored at the event was Medical Mutual of Ohio, which received the Community Partner Award.



They received this honor for supporting Greater Cleveland Volunteers efforts linking adults with volunteer opportunities in Cuyahoga County. They also provide long-standing financial support and past recognition of volunteers at Medical Mutual of Ohio's annual Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards program.

Presenting the award to Medical Mutual's Ruth Peake is Joy Banish, Greater Cleveland Volunteers Executive Director and Tom Barnard, Greater Cleveland Volunteers Board President.

Read more about the event on page 4.

## What a year!

Joy Banish, Executive Director

As the end of the year approaches, it is a time to reflect on our accomplishments. This year we have added several new partner agencies that offer new and exciting volunteer opportunities, continued our work engaging adults age 50+ in the Encore Cleveland initiative and expanded our AARP Foundation literacy tutoring program to a new school district. Our My Mentor My Friend lunchtime mentoring program is going strong in the schools and more volunteers are making an impact with important community needs through our RSVP program.

As you think about your accomplishments this year, I hope you can count volunteering as part of them. If you haven't been actively serving this year, please contact us and we will help you find the perfect opportunity that matches your interests, skills and availability. Sharing your time and talents to help others is a wonderful gift to those you help and to yourself.

We thank all of our volunteers for their service this year!

[jbanish@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:jbanish@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

## We're Connected

### The Upside of Downs

For over thirty years, The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio (USOD) has provided valuable support, education and advocacy for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and communities.

In May 2016, they opened a new center in Independence. It offers art classes, summer enrichment programs, parent support groups and a retail store. The retail store carries items created by artisans with Down syndrome – local and national – to help spread awareness of the abilities of people with Downs.

Volunteers are recruited for help in the retail store. Contact Cecille Harris at 216-391-9500 x 122  
[charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)



Supporting & Celebrating  
Down Syndrome in Northeast Ohio

## Working with Youth Tutoring and Mentoring

If you want to see youth succeed in school consider volunteering in the AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program and/or the My Mentor My Friend lunchtime mentoring program.



**AARP Foundation Experience Corps** is a proven national program with volunteers who are dedicated to helping children in grades K-3 become great readers before finishing third grade.

This program is for adults age 50+, who possess a high school diploma or GED, agree to take and pass a criminal background check and can volunteer 4-6 hours per week.

This year we offer the program in both the Cleveland Metropolitan and Euclid City School Districts.

Contact Ross Jones at 216-391-9500 x 119 or  
[rjones@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:rjones@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)



**My Mentor My Friend** is a lunchtime mentoring program starting with 4th grade students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Adults are matched with students to share lunchtime by talking, doing puzzles, making crafts, playing board games or exploring a new skill or hobby. The mentors, age 18+, visit their assigned school once or twice a week, depending on their schedule.

Contact Carol Hasek at 216-391-9500 x 125 or  
[chasek@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:chasek@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

## Most Treasured Volunteer Award



*Elva is flanked by Ross Jones, Program Manager and Mike Milanich Program Coordinator for AARP Foundation Experience Corps, Greater Cleveland Volunteers.*

Greater Cleveland Volunteers member Elva Fosh was one of five volunteers in Cuyahoga County who received the prestigious Most Treasured Volunteer (MTV) award from the Center for Community Solutions.

Fosh was nominated for her outstanding efforts as a team leader in the national AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program.

“She has made such a positive impact in her school that the Principal invited her to attend a diversity summit in the school and multiple in-service sessions for teachers and staff.” Joy Banish, Greater Cleveland Volunteers Executive Director explained.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers relies on her for implementation of program needs, training, paperwork, communications and

promotion of the literacy program.

Although a mother of four, grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of two, she has found time to volunteer. She explains, “I wanted to contribute in a meaningful way to the community and knew working with children would have the most impact.”

Congratulations, Elva. We appreciate your support and enthusiasm for literacy!

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## Spreading the spirit of Volunteering!



Do you have your t-shirt yet? If not, contact Sharla for details on how you can receive yours at no cost! We want others to see and experience the wonderful benefits volunteering brings to their community and themselves.

Thanks to Denise (left) and Evelyn, both new mentors in our lunchtime mentoring program My Mentor My Friend, for showing off their shirts!

Sharla Harris 216-391-9500 x 135  
[sharris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:sharris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

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## Help us keep current files

If you have changed your contact information including: address, email and/or any phone numbers, please contact our office. Keeping our files up-to-date ensures that you will receive our communications and agency updates.

Give us a call at 216-391-9500 or email to [contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

# SPARKLE: The Magic of Volunteering

Greater Cleveland Volunteers' annual benefit was held in October. The evening included a cocktail hour, silent auction, jewelry sale, triple diamonds raffle and those zany poses in the photo booth. After dinner Tom Barnard, Board President and Joy Banish, Executive Director presented two awards. Leroy Wilson Jr received the David F. Leahy Award for Volunteer Excellence (cover story) and Medical Mutual of Ohio received the 2016 Community Partner Award (cover story).



*Attendees are admiring the stylish necklaces for sale*

*Mike Milanich holds up the Triple Diamond Raffle choices to John E. Johnson of Playhouse Square*



*The Benefit committee:  
(L-R) Dianna M. Kall, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Darlene Johnson-Cargill, Rochelle Solomon, Darlene Rota, Sarah Zarcone, Ann Eland, Chair, and Joy Banish, Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Judy Simon, not pictured.*



*Mike Smith, Greater Cleveland Volunteers board member, holds up his winning basket.*

# DONATIONS and IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge and thank all of our donors that provided a gift to our agency from January to October 2016

## General Donations

AARP Foundation  
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    dba Applebee's - Brooklyn, OH  
American Cancer Society  
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Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center  
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The Federated Church  
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The Helen F. Stolier & Louis Stolier Family Foundation  
The John P. Murphy Foundation

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### In-Kind Donations of service or product

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Cleveland Playhouse  
Cleveland Public Theatre  
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Dave's Cosmic Subs

Dave's Cosmic Subs  
Dennison Railroad Depot Museum  
Don's Pomeroy House  
Carol A. Durgan  
E's Golf Carts  
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Farm at Walnut Creek, The  
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Fun-N-Stuff  
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Michael E. Smith  
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Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens  
Stonehenge Historic Home Tour

In-Kind Donations continued

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Taza Lebanese Grill  
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Trolley Tours of Cleveland  
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Underwater Dive Center

Underwater Dive Center  
USS Cod Submarine Memorial  
Victorian House Museum  
Holmes County Historical Society  
Nicole Westendorf  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
Wheel of Fortune  
WKYC-TV

## Consider the community benefits of Volunteerism

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has served Cleveland and its suburbs for 44 years. Our mission is to motivate individuals to volunteer their time, educate them about how they can help and connect them with service activities.

We are focused on assisting the most vulnerable people in our community concentrating in:

- Homelessness
- Hunger
- Job readiness for the unemployed
- Services to the elderly
- Education for both children and adults

We are asking you to look for the Annual Campaign Solicitation letter that will be arriving in the coming days. Once you have it please consider a 2016 gift to support our agency's efforts. Take a moment to make an investment in our community's future and help ensure the continued legacy of Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

Please complete and return the envelope with your check made payable to **Greater Cleveland Volunteers**, or you can give securely with your credit card via PayPal on our website, [greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support/index.php](http://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support/index.php).

Your investment enables our agency to manage the following vital programs including:

- the local chapter of the national RSVP program, engaging adults 55+ in volunteer efforts to meet critical community needs
- AARP Foundation Experience Corps, which provides literacy tutors to children in grades K-3 within the Cleveland Metropolitan and Euclid City School Districts
- My Mentor My Friend, which matches children with a mentor who meets with them weekly at school.



*Joan providing a nutritious meal*



*Award-Winning volunteers at our annual Volunteer Recognition*

The success and impact of volunteerism depends on those who believe in and support it.

Dwayne Jones, Development Director at 216-391-9500 x 113  
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**FROM OUR STAFF TO YOU**  
***ENJOY A WONDERFUL AND SAFE***  
***HOLIDAY SEASON!***



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