



March April
Vol. XLV, No.2

From Helping Youth to Adults Norm enjoys it all



In a career, the large majority of which was spent directing Jewish Family Service agencies, Norm Keane worked in Cleveland, Tucson, Pittsburgh and Detroit. With his 2011 retirement, Norm and his wife planned a move back to Cleveland to be nearer to his family, especially the grandchildren, and to be a part of their activities.

His 2012 re-establishment in Cleveland also provided some time for him to contribute to the community in a new way. He coveted the kind of one to one direct service contact he had not had since the early days of his extensive professional career. Norm saw a flyer from Greater Cleveland Volunteers, attended an orientation, and started volunteering in the My Mentor My Friend program. "It was fun mentoring. I wanted to be more of a direct contact," he said. "That minimal amount of time can have such an impact on a kid – on the way they feel about themselves."



After three years of mentoring, Norm became involved at the 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter. Some 400 men stay at the shelter nightly, in various stages of crisis and transition. At the shelter, Norm assists the men in their search for affordable area housing and helps to conduct mock employment interviews. Because of past offenses, finding housing and employment can be very difficult. Volunteering at the shelter has become an integral part of Norm's life. Norm reflects, "I love this opportunity...the whole homeless service world is very complex, and if it is for me, it must also be for them."

One success was a man for whom Norm could not secure housing. One day the man tracked down Norm to tell him he had found an apartment on his own, only because of Norm's support and guidance and wanted to thank him. Norm asked why, the man replied, "Because you tried." They still keep in contact.

Norm is quick to applaud the folks who manage the programs partnered with Greater Cleveland Volunteers. He calls them "unbelievably supportive and responsive."

You can provide your TIME, RESOURCES and SUPPORT in many ways to help others.

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Call us for details at 216-391-9500 or email contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Honoring Volunteers!

Take a look inside Greater Cleveland Volunteers with the Executive Director

All year our staff is fortunate to hear the success stories of our volunteers with their assignments in Cuyahoga County. We receive positive feedback from not only our wonderful, caring volunteers, but also from clients and staff from the nonprofit partner agencies we serve.

Each year we are pleased to offer a Volunteer Recognition Celebration. This year we will all gather on May 2 to honor our volunteers for all the great things they do to help in our community. We will feature some volunteers with a Limelight Award, enjoy lunch and fun fellowship and participate in a community service project.

I draw your attention to the special insert in this issue. The Forum for Volunteer Administrators (FVA), a local organization that supports volunteer management professionals, has provided discount coupons to several area cultural organizations. These are provided during **National Volunteer Week, April 23-29**, to thank volunteers for their efforts. We thank FVA for offering these coupons to our volunteers and hope you can take time to visit some of these fine institutions.

Joy Banish
Executive Director
jbanish@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Westlake Meals on Wheels

Serving the community for 40+ years



Westlake Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit community service that has served the citizens of Westlake since 1975. The program prepares and delivers a variety of nutritious meals to

Westlake residents who find it difficult to purchase or prepare food.

The organization is unique in that it does not receive federal, state or local government funding. Rather, it relies on community support and private payments. Meal recipients - or a designated person - are billed on a monthly basis.

They have 75 volunteers a week who prepare the food and deliver the meals under the direction of a Head Cook. Drivers deliver a hot meal and a cold meal in the same delivery each day between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to over 50 clients.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is helping with recruiting kitchen helpers and bakers, who will assist in the preparation and packing of meals and dessert treats for their clients.

Contact Sandy at 216-391-9500 x 120 or sfrazier@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Empowering Youth Exploring Justice

Life skills for students



EYEJ empowers and amplifies the voices of teens and pre-teens by bridging them with diverse individuals to engage in interactive discussions centered around social justice.

They accomplish this through a Discussion Series in schools. They are serving over 300 students and are doubling in size!

Volunteers are what make EYEJ happen. The Speaker and Coordinator Volunteers for their Discussion Series discuss various topics in one hour with students such as; Stress and the Brain, Education, Money, Health, Community Relationships, Race & Justice, Empowerment and Power & Privilege. They prepare all of the content and activities for each volunteer. They pair the speakers with a partner and a coordinator— it's fun, engaging and easy.

Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.



Volunteer Opportunities

So much to do and these agencies need your help.

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Thank a Veteran - Veterans are needed as volunteer visitors to our military heroes who are in the hospital. Thank you gifts of a flag, pin and book are all provided, as well as you offering a friendly ear to our vets. Must be a veteran to volunteer in this visitation program. Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Hospital Volunteers - Contribute to a healing environment by providing assistance at an area hospital. Unit volunteers work with medical personnel to help patients, including children and heart and cancer patients. Ambassadors and envoys provide excellent customer service to patients and their family members. Gift shop volunteers provide retail assistance in hospital gift shops. Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Do you enjoy gardening? - Spring is here and volunteers are needed to help in Cleveland's nonprofit agency gardens. Assist in seeding, planting, maintaining, weeding, clearing landscape, and/or removing invasive plants. If you enjoy working outdoors these opportunities are for you. Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Blood Drive greeter - There is an ongoing need for donor ambassadors to contribute to the success of area blood drives throughout Cuyahoga County. Training is provided. Contact Sandy at 216-391-9500 x 120 or sfrazier@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Help cook or bake for others - Work with a team of caring and cooperative volunteers who prepare, cook and pack meals for those in need. Kitchen helpers may work any weekday 8:15 – 10:45 a.m. Bakers plan and prepare desserts for meals delivered to over fifty clients on weekdays from 11:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Contact Sandy at 216-391-9500 x 120 or sfrazier@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Assist in Nonprofit Office - Volunteers to assist with filing, data entry, mailings and light office help are in demand at nonprofit organizations throughout the Cleveland area. Flexible days and times on weekdays. Contact Lynette at 216-391-9500 x 123 or Imaistros@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Give a child an academic boost - Are you patient with reading? Do you love math? Homework helpers provide valuable guidance to students who need a little help in a variety of subjects. Afterschool hours at both east and west side locations. Contact Lynette at 216-391-9500 x 123 or Imaistros@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Spring Fling Dance - Volunteer assistance needed to help with photography, decorating, greeting, mingling and dancing with special needs clients. Food and parking is provided. Sunday, May 7th 4:00-8:00 p.m. Downtown Cleveland. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Cleveland Foundation Annual Meeting - Volunteer to greet guests and distribute gift bags. Food and parking is provided at a Downtown Cleveland location. Wednesday, May 10th 3:00-8:00 p.m. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.



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REFER A FRIEND

Help us **spread the word** about the need for volunteers in Cuyahoga County. We are specifically seeking additional volunteers, age 50+ to serve in key impact areas.

Please consider talking to a few friends about your volunteering experiences and if they have an interest, contact our office at 216-391-9500 or email contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or submit your name, address and phone number along with the names you are submitting and mail to our office: 4415 Euclid Avenue # 200, Cleveland, OH 44103.

By doing so, you'll be entered in a quarterly drawing for \$25.00. All entries must be **received by June 30, 2017** to be eligible for this drawing. Our staff will follow up with the referred individual/s. You may enter as often as you like throughout the year.

The winner of the December drawing is Ozzie Shaaban. Thanks for submitting names!

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, the State of Ohio and United Way of Greater Cleveland.
Newsletter printing donated by RICOH.