

# Greater Cleveland Volunteers News

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

## The Executive's

### Directions



2012 was a very special year for Greater Cleveland Volunteers. As part of our effort to make an impact on improving our community, we transitioned our RSVP senior volunteer program to focus on 'high-impact' volunteering.

This change has allowed us to partner with several new organizations and develop new opportunities for our volunteers. Take a look on page 7.

We also expanded our use of social media and technology to recruit and engage volunteers- if you don't already "like" or "follow" us, please do! This is the fastest way to learn about volunteer opportunities and the great things our volunteers are doing. Page 2 gives you the details.

The highlight of 2012 was recognizing our agency's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We celebrated throughout the year with a variety of events and activities; but the topper was our fun **Viva Volunteers** event held in October. Thanks to all of the many supporters that helped us throughout 2012!

As we move into 2013, we are excited to implement a new communications plan which includes increased production of this newsletter. If you receive this publication electronically look forward to an improved e-newsletter. We will continue to provide a printed version of the newsletter, but if you care to provide your e-mail address to us, you can receive the new e-newsletter as well as more frequent updates from us.

January 21st marked our second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. **Day of Service** project in which we collected food and personal hygiene items for local hunger centers. See the feature story and pictures on page 6. We are conducting a volunteer survey, please complete the insert and mail before February 22, 2013.

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I am excited to announce that the Greater Cleveland Volunteers' office will be moving to a new location in March 2013. **Our new address will be 4415 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200, Cleveland, 44103.** This new location will provide better space to our staff and has a large conference room on site that we can use for meetings and trainings. We look forward to welcoming you in our new office this spring.

**I hope that 2013 is a good year for you!**

**Joy Banish, Executive Director**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA: WHAT IS FACEBOOK?**



You hear about it, read about it and see the logo on almost everything. According to their website, "Facebook is a **social network** that allows its members to **communicate, connect** and **engage** with each other, both directly and through various applications and features."

It's a great tool that almost every company, non-profit organization, group and individual uses to communicate. Greater Cleveland Volunteers is no different. Our page is a fun, friendly vehicle we use to distribute timely information about volunteer needs in Cuyahoga County, pertinent volunteer statistics, benefits and fun facts.

We like to post updates about our volunteers doing "their thing." It can be; helping at a nursing home, serving as a tutor in a school, performing office clerical needs, or teaching a skill or trade to others.

### **I don't have an account, how do I set one up?**

You go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the instructions. Post as much or as little about yourself as you wish. Then you search for friends or companies, organizations and "like" them to receive and pass along their information.

**Until I set up an account can I check out the Facebook page?** Sure, you can click on the Facebook icon (F) on websites then taking you directly to the page to view and participate.

We ask that you **consider adding us** to your favorite pages and when you like our message, you click on the **"like" our post, comment and/or share on your Facebook page.**

Dianna Kall  
Communications  
& Special Events Coordinator  
[dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

## **SHOP TALK ABOUT DEVELOPMENT**

Greater Cleveland Volunteers observed the National Day of Service by holding a food drive to support the efforts of several of our partner agencies. This is one way to demonstrate the commitment to others that was central to Dr. King's life.

We like to think that we help people live up to this ideal throughout the year, by connecting them to volunteer positions that directly benefit other Clevelanders. As you read in Joy's article, we will soon be doing our work from a new location, at 4415 Euclid Avenue. We will be offering opportunities to dedicate portions of this new space – for example, in honor or memory of someone close to you. If you are interested in discussing this with me, please call me at (216) 391-9500 x113.

We thank those supporters who have made generous gifts of \$1,000 and above since our last issue:

### **Anonymous**

**Eva L. & Joseph M. Bruening Foundation  
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Rosemary Rehner  
William H. Roberts  
Tom & Lauren Skrovan  
The Wuliger Family  
Charles & Ann Zellmer**

Alan Goldman  
Development Director  
[agoldman@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:agoldman@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHT



**The Hospice of the Western Reserve** is a community-based, non-profit agency providing comfort and emotional support to patients and their families. The agency cares for people in a variety of settings throughout Northeastern Ohio including the home, hospital, long-term care facility, David Simpson Hospice House overlooking Lake Erie, and the Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake.

As a vital part of Hospice of the Western Reserve's team, volunteers come from all walks of life, having a variety of skills, talents and abilities with an extraordinary love and a common bond of concern for others. The agency offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities to people age 13 and up, and matches opportunities to interests and availability.

One volunteer commented: *"I get so much more out of it than I give. This is the most important thing I have done in my life."*

Volunteer opportunities are diverse and include:



**Direct Patient Care Opportunities:** providing socialization, comfort and companionship, legacy work, bereavement calls, music access, errands, respite, attorney, notary, veterans serving veterans, licensed hairdresser, massage therapist, pet therapy, transportation, light housekeeping, spiritual care

**Support Opportunities:** clerical/data entry, reception, community outreach, speaker's bureau, resale shop, flower arranging, group facilitator, volunteer education, fundraising, special events, volunteer marketing, and grant writing.

Volunteer requirements include attending 20 hours of education for Direct Care Volunteers or 4 hours for Support Volunteers plus 4 hours of self-study, a 2 step TB test, and a criminal background check at the agency's expense.

We offer frequent education sessions for new volunteers on weekdays, evening, and weekends. Please contact **Lynette at Greater Cleveland Volunteers at 216-391-9500 x 123** to learn more.



Article and photographs submitted from  
Hospice of the Western Reserve  
[www.hospicewr.org](http://www.hospicewr.org)

PROUD AFFILIATE



## Fine Elements of Literacy

We have all heard of **Literacy**. But what does it mean to a young third grader struggling with reading? It means the difference between achievement and failure. It can mean the difference between dropping out of school and graduating from high school and possibly going on to college.

### Fine Elements of a Literacy Tree House

**PORCH** "Reading"  
(Pleasure). Using  
reading to think, learn  
and dream.

**ROOF**  
"Comprehension" (Understanding)  
The ability to make sense out of text.

**WINDOWS**  
"Vocabulary" (Words)  
The words that the  
child can read.

**WALLS**  
"Phonics" (Letters)  
Connects the sounds of  
letters to the written  
Letter.

**DOOR**  
"Fluency"  
(How reading)  
The ability to read  
Smoothly and  
accurately.



**FLOOR**  
"Phonemic Awareness"  
The sounds of child's lan-  
guage.

Developed by Susan Speizer,  
Program Literacy Coordinator and Trainer

The goal of the AARP Experience Corps is to help a student master the skills in each element of literacy. You can help a child reach the "Porch" by becoming a tutor. Please contact Debra to find out more.

Debra Kay  
Director School-Based Programs  
dkay@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org  
216-391-9500 x 119

**Thanks to Orange Blossom Press for their donation of envelopes used for take-home literacy kits for students**





**My Mentor  
MY FRIEND**

RESPECT • SUPPORT • ENCOURAGE  
A program of Greater Cleveland Volunteers

## MENTORING NEWS

A very *Happy New Year* to anyone I have not seen personally! This is the time I start to look forward to Spring, which I optimistically believe is never too far behind the start of the New Year.

January always brings another reason to celebrate—**National Mentoring Month**.

On December 31, 2012, President Obama released a proclamation marking the 12th anniversary of this month-long national recognition of mentoring. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the importance and impact of mentoring. Excerpts of the proclamation read,

*“Mentors know that helping a child unlock their full potential begins with care, guidance, and support...A supportive mentor can mean the difference between struggle and success...I encourage all Americans to spend time as a mentor and help lift our next generation toward their hopes and dreams.”*

Our volunteer mentors who meet at lunch time with a student they have been matched with in one of our four Cleveland Metropolitan schools knows firsthand the rewards of mentoring, as well as mentoring’s challenges. Thanks to **Alice McCoy**, pictured above right, a mentor at Elliott Elementary school. She’s just one of the “caring individuals who make it their mission to serve others” and to whom our national pays special tribute during **National Mentoring Month**.

Will you think about offering your friendship to a child still waiting for a mentor?

Carol Hasek, Coordinator  
My Mentor My Friend  
[chasek@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:chasek@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)



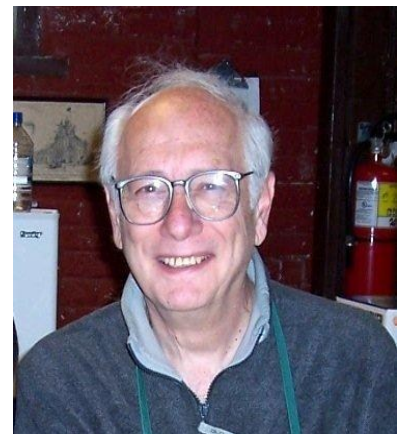
**Alice McCoy**, a mentor at Elliott Elementary School has enjoyed the experience for three years. Alice is honest with her reason for volunteering, “I like the fact that the children I visit can’t wait to see me.” Alice finds mentoring a rewarding experience.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations **Larry Charnas** who received the “2012 Overall Volunteer of the Year” from Habitat for Humanity. Larry is part of a construction crew two days a week and a cashier in the ReStore three days a week.

As they put it, “Larry is steadfast in his work and has a commitment to the mission.”

Larry has also received the David F. Leahy award for Outstanding Volunteer with Greater Cleveland Volunteers in 2007.



## DAY OF SERVICE

January 21, 2013 was Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and a federal holiday. This is dubbed as a “day on, not day off” for Americans to honor Dr. King’s legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community.

The MLK Day of Service is a way to transform his life and teachings into community action that helps solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, or it may meet a need of the spirit.

On that day Americans were called to celebrate Dr. King through service projects that strengthen communities, empower individuals, bridge barriers, and create solutions. We were no exception. Greater Cleveland Volunteers held our second annual non-perishable food and personal hygiene collection for smaller community food and outreach pantries.

The volunteers and staff that helped that day collected over 600 items that were divided amongst three of our partner agencies: The Lakewood Community Services Center, Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach and University Settlement.



Staff and volunteers sorted all the donations for the three area food pantries.



The community was generous in providing the essentials to families: non-perishable food (of all kinds!) and personal hygiene products; which cannot be purchased with any government assistance program.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDS:** Here’s your chance to see where the magic happens. **We need office volunteers** to help with phone calls, assist with a variety of projects, log data on the computer, answer the phone, and help with clerical duties. If you are detail oriented person who has experience with Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel then **consider this unique volunteer opportunity at our office. Call Kirsten at 216-391-9500 x 114**

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We provide a brief description with the Greater Cleveland Volunteers' contact person listed. Phone numbers and emails are at the bottom of the page.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY INSERT AND SUBMIT BEFORE February 22, 2013**

**Apartment set-up:** Help this transitional shelter for homeless families. Help is needed to prep apartments at the Mount Pleasant facility. Volunteers are called when needed. Contact Sue.

**Reading Buddy:** Read to and with elementary-aged children (grades K-3) in an after school program at St. Malachi Center, downtown. Contact: Kirsten

**Prison Visitor:** Be a friend to an incarcerated adult taking steps to improve their lives. Women visit women and men visit men in Grafton once-a-month. Mandatory background check and training. Contact Lynette.

**Respite Volunteer:** Volunteers are needed to visit with patients so a family member can get a reprieve from the daily duties associated with patient care. You can offer light housekeeping assistance, run errands or share a hobby. Contact Lynette.

**Adults with developmental disabilities.** There is a need for help visiting and assisting at a variety of social events. Contact Jan.

**Mentor** with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Develop a friendship with a little "brother" or "sister" through consistent interaction; conversations, activities, and opportunities. Valid driver's license and background check required. Twice per month, flexible days/times. Contact Kirsten.

**Literacy tutor:** If you have a love for reading and want to help adults improve their literacy skills we have a need for one-on-one or a small group setting of tutoring. Volunteers serve 2 times per week. Contact Jan.

## **VOLUNTEER FOR A DAY!**

**Pledge Drive: February 8—March 24, 2013.** WVIZ/WCPN ideastream will be holding a pledge drive to support their television and radio programming. Contact Jan.

**Call: 216-391-9500**

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PLEASE POST THIS LIST OR GIVE TO OTHERS WHO MAY BE  
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING





Connecting you with opportunities to serve

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Our appreciation to **The Cleveland Sight Center**, one of our partner agencies for 40 years, for hosting our annual Board meeting in December.



Past President, Georgia Anetzberger was appointed as a *Lifetime Director* to the board. Georgia has been actively serving since 1998.



Board President, Michael Smith, is pictured with Frances W. Gale, Lifetime Director. Francis received recognition for serving on the board for 25 years.

**Congratulations to both outstanding individuals who have helped move the efforts and mission of Greater Cleveland forward.**