

# Greater Cleveland Volunteers News

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

## The Executive's

Directions

## OUR BUSY SEASON



Summertime is the busiest time of year for Greater Cleveland Volunteers. It is the season when we coordinate volunteers for many one-time special events that occur throughout the community through our Team Events program. It is fun to work with such a wide variety of agencies and events.

Summer is also when we focus a good deal of our time on recruiting new volunteers for our two programs that serve the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD): the My Mentor My Friend mentoring program and the AARP Experience Corps literacy tutoring program. As CMSD is working to implement its plan to improve the educational attainment of its students, we are pleased that we can play a part in making this happen by providing volunteer tutors and mentors.

We have a wonderful group of volunteer tutors and mentors now, but need more for the upcoming school year. We are getting a lot of help in recruiting new volunteers this summer through AARP Ohio which has sent thousands of its members information about our AARP Experience Corps program. We are also fortunate to have an intern from Cleveland State University, Yulu Li, who is helping coordinate our tutor and mentor recruitment activities this summer.

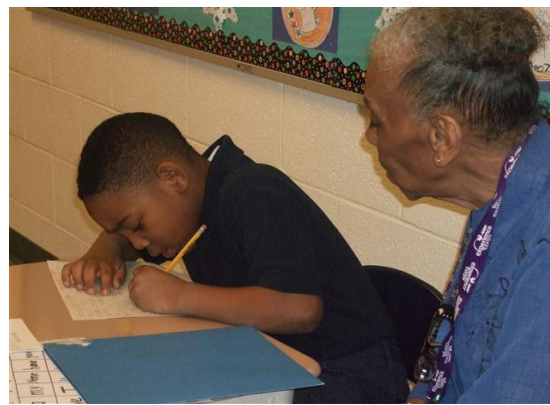
United Way of Greater Cleveland has launched a campaign with CMSD to encourage more people to volunteer to help in the schools. Together with all of these efforts, we can make a positive impact on the lives of young people in the City of Cleveland. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help in one of the Cleveland Schools, please call our office at 216-391-9500 or send an e-mail to [contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).

### **AARP EC literacy tutors in a workshop and in action**


Joy Banish  
Executive Director  
216-391-9500 x 112

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## AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

 **CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN** Cleveland Botanical Garden is an arts and culture non-profit organization that aims to spark a passion for plants and cultivate an understanding of their vital relationship to people and the environment. The Garden has a 10-acre campus located in University Circle, featuring both indoor and outdoor gardens, we also have learning/urban farms throughout the city.

At the Garden, volunteers are essential to achieving the goal of instilling a sense of excitement, awe and passion for the living world in every guest who walks through our doors.

The Garden is a perfect place for volunteers to learn new skills, contribute to their community, form new friendships, and have fun.



In general volunteer assignments are categorized in these three areas:

**Horticultural** – volunteers who choose to serve in this group offer to affectionately “play in the dirt”. They help to maintain outdoor gardens and two exotic biomes – Madagascar and Costa Rica. These are the volunteers that may also choose to learn about and assist with the daily care of many fascinating animals, insects, and ever popular butterflies.

**Educational** – volunteers lending their talents in this area make Cleveland Botanical Garden an enjoyable place to learn – sometimes without the guests even realizing it. Volunteers offer informational tours, others facilitate learning through play, while others choose to be a walking resource for guests and serve to make the people-to-plant connection.

**Operational** – volunteers giving of themselves in these types of positions help keep the Garden running smoothly. These volunteers serve as ambassadors while greeting guest, helping friends new and old find the perfect gift in the garden store, helping with special events, and assisting with office work.

For more information about volunteering at Cleveland Botanical Garden call Nadine at 216-391-9500 x 122 or [ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)



Article and photographs submitted by  
Cleveland Botanical Garden





## Viva Volunteers Annual Fundraiser Friday, October 18, 2013 6:30 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn—Downtown  
1100 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland 44115

This year we are celebrating the success of our  
AARP Experience Corps Program which provides Literacy Tutors  
in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District

You can expect an exciting evening filled with elegant appetizers, a delicious banquet meal, the popular silent auction and presentation of the David F. Leahy Award to an outstanding volunteer. We will also honor **The Cleveland Foundation** with the Community Partner Award.

Tickets start at \$125.00. Event details are at [greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](http://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

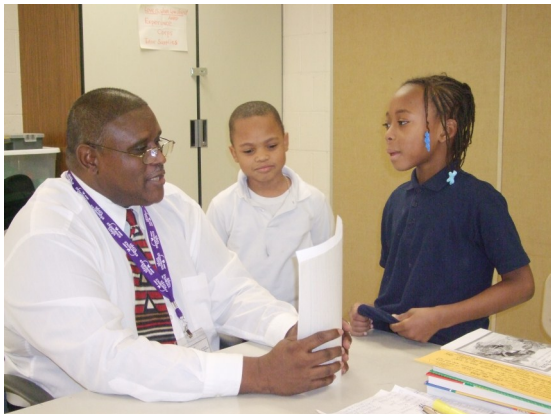
**Reservation deadline is Friday, October 4, 2013.**

Contact: Dianna Kall 216-391-9500 x 115 or [dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

We held a **spring raffle** to support the AARP Experience Corps program. We pulled the winning tickets at the annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon. Congratulations to: Tashunna Booker \$500, Clara Spath \$250, and Leonard Young \$100. Thanks for their support and those who bought and/or sold tickets.

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### AARP EXPERIENCE CORPS RECEIVES GRANTS:



We are very grateful to the 16 members of Cleveland City Council who support our AARP Experience Corps program through Community Development Block Grant funds:

**Terrell Pruitt, Zack Reed, Joe Cimperman, Kenneth Johnson, Phyllis Cleveland, Mamie Mitchell, TJ Dow, Kevin Conwell, Michael Polensek, Anthony Brancatelli, Kevin Kelley, Brian Cummins, Jay Westbrook, Dona Brady, Martin Sweeney, and Martin Keane.**

We also thank the **Abington Foundation and the United Black Fund** for their recent grants as well.

This funding is necessary to help us continue our efforts with literacy tutoring to elementary schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

***Thank you ALL for your dedication to Cleveland's children.***





## ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

CELEBRATE! Yes, we did in grand style on Thursday, June 20th when we held our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon recognizing over 470 attendees for their efforts and support in many ways during the year.

Board President, Michael Smith welcomed the attendees and referenced that 2,000 volunteers gave over 240,000 hours of volunteer time to over 100 nonprofit agencies in Cuyahoga County in 2012.

The afternoon was filled with awards, entertainment and raffle drawings

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR SERVICE !

Our partner agencies submitted names for the prestigious **Limelight Award** signifying their commitment to their agency. We again recognize and congratulate the following:

Bill Baris, Euclid Senior Programs  
David Beckman, Cleveland Police Auxiliary  
Helen Carbon, University Hospitals  
Bernice Celebucki, WSEM/Brookside Center  
Cynthia Coleman, Lakeshore Golden Age Center  
Clarice Dittmar, Greater Cleveland Volunteers- Team Events  
Charles Durham, Helen S. Brown Senior Center  
Lynn Edelman, Arthritis Foundation  
Eugene Gordon, Great Lakes Science Center  
Elaine Hlaves, MetroHealth Old Brooklyn Health Center  
Drinda Kiner, Greater Cleveland Volunteers – RSVP Players  
Mary Ellen Klein, Greater Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center  
Robert Loud, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging  
Russell Marxen, Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity  
Louise McCormick, ideastream  
Christina Merk, My Mentor My Friend – Denison School  
Alma Miller, South Pointe Hospital  
Henrietta Milton, Murtis Taylor Human Services System  
Roberta Oldham, Cleveland Botanical Garden  
Mary Reasor, Judson at University Circle  
Helen Sammon, International Women's Air & Space Museum  
Elaine Scheel, Greater Cleveland Volunteers  
Maxine Stone, Greater Cleveland Volunteers- Team Events  
Leontine Synor, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter  
Eunice Ulrich, Hospice of the Western Reserve

Read more on page 7



## SUMMER INTERN FOR RESEARCH

We welcome summer intern Yulu Li a graduate assistant at Cleveland State University. Yulu will be researching, developing and implementing strategies for recruiting volunteers in the area of education and job readiness. She is enrolled in the Masters Program for Public Administration with a concentration in nonprofit management.

## THERE'S A HIGH NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Did you know that the unemployment rate for the city of Cleveland is around 9.4%? United Way's First Call for Help has seen a rise in the numbers seeking employment assistance with a 35% increase within the city of Cleveland. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, improving Cleveland's rank as one of the nation's poorest big cities requires a focus on developing job skills of residents so that they can earn a higher income and afford better quality housing.

Taking proactive action we sponsored an informational session addressing several areas. Over 30 attendees heard from partner agencies on ways they can volunteer to help provide critical needs services.



### Some of the volunteer positions that we are seeking to fill include:

Adult literacy tutor    Adult math tutor    Career Coach    Computer Instructor  
 Computer lab assistant    Curriculum aides for culinary job training program    ESL tutor  
 GED tutor    Job Readiness Facilitator    Refugee Resettlement    Resume Writing assistants  
 Transportation volunteer for refugees

There are a variety of positions available where you can make a difference. To learn more about these opportunities, contact Jan Vectirelis at 216-391-9500 x124 or [jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

We are also seeking professional and retired groups to speak to regarding the need for additional job preparedness volunteers. Please contact our office at [contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) if you know of such a group that might be interested in assisting to make a difference in Cleveland.

# 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.**

## **On-Going Efforts:**

**Career Coach Speaker/Mentor-** Do you have experience in the health care field as a nurse, in medical records, or as a STNA? We are seeking volunteers to mentor/speak to current STNA certificate students, through their program. Some of the topics to be covered would include: resume building skills; how to prepare for an interview; professional work skills such as punctuality, responsibility, etc...and more. Contact Nadine.

**Garden Docents:** Do you enjoy plants and flowers? Enjoy being surrounded by the exuberant energy of children? Volunteers are needed to help school groups enjoy the vitality and enjoyment of a garden in indoor and outdoor settings. Good communication skills and a desire to work with children a must. Mandatory background check and ample training and "shadowing" provided. Contact Nadine.

**GED tutor-** Help an adult practice for the upcoming GED test. This test will allow them to earn their High School equivalency diploma, allowing them to further their education or improve their job prospects. Tutors are needed 2 times per week; flexible days and times available. 12 month commitment required. Contact Jan.

**Transportation/Driver for Refugees-** Recent refugees need your assistance in being able to get around in Cuyahoga County. Offer your services to drive them to medical appointments; shopping trips and other appointments. Help them learn how to navigate Cleveland. Contact Jan.

**Virtual Mentors:** Do you wish you had someone to mentor you through your college career? Consider being a virtual mentor for a local college student who is the first in their family to attend a 4-year college. You would communicate with your matched student virtually through an online portal, using provided prompts, a few times per month. You would also meet with the student at organized social gatherings, 3 times annually. Flexible schedules. Must have a Bachelor's Degree. Contact Sue.

**Bartender:** Are you a people person? Volunteers are needed to serve beer, wine and some mixed drinks to senior residents at local senior housing facilities at social gatherings. Weeknights; early evenings. Contact Lynette.

**Stay in Touch caller:** Do you enjoy being on the phone? Customer service oriented individual is needed to make phone calls to current volunteers and partner agencies. Volunteer must have a comfort level with basic computer skills. Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays; daytime hours. Contact Kirsten.

**Senior Center Aide:** Offer a variety of services to low income seniors in Cleveland's east side. Help at the center, mainly with its programming for seniors, including preparing and serving their lunch congregate meal program. Weekday daytime opportunities. Contact Nadine.

**Cancer Support Driver-**Transport patients to their cancer treatment appointments; use your own vehicle to pick patients up at their homes; drop them off at the cancer center. Round trip or one-way based on availability. Valid driver's license, auto insurance and reliable vehicle required. Background check and driving record check required. Mon-Fri 7-5. Contact Nadine.

**Call 216-391-9500 then extension or email as listed below.**

Kirsten x 114	kfrei-hermann@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Sue x 120	ssmith@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Nadine x 122	ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Lynette x 123	lmaistros@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Jan x 124	jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

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



## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CONTINUES!!!



Congratulations to our AARP Experience Corps *Shining Star Award* recipient, **Cheryl Shelton** (right). She is the Executive Director of Professional Development, Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Ms. Shelton was honored at our annual recognition for her devotion and commitment to the program by training our tutors in the computer lab for over five years. Ms. Shelton is pictured with Debra Kay, (left) Director of School Based Programs for our agency.

We held a personal hygiene collection at the Volunteer Recognition and received great support before the event with donations from our partner agencies; The Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center and WVIZ/ideastream volunteers who brought items during their annual live auction.

We thank Holiday Inn- Independence and all the luncheon attendees for their donations. The 1,000+ items were divided amongst four agencies with clients in need.

Lydia Bailey (left) and Leontine Synor (right) from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, one of the agencies who received the items, flank Greater Cleveland Volunteers staffer, Jan Vectirelis as they accept the collection.

### THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING EVENT SPONSORS:

Consolidated Graphics Group, East Ohio Dominion, Western Reserve Agency on Aging, A.M. McGregor, Hospice of the Western Reserve, Centers for Dialysis Care, R. W. Baird & Company, University Suburban Health Center, Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, Holiday Inn-Independence, and Judson at University Circle.



Attendees enjoyed a fun celebration of volunteerism in Cuyahoga County!



This year we invited our partner agencies to have a table with information. Joan Ibbett, Hospice of the Western Reserve was ready to go!

## SHOP TALK...from the Development Office

*Crain's Cleveland Business* recently listed the largest public companies in northeast Ohio. I was very happy to see that **7 of the top 15 corporations on this list provide support to Greater Cleveland Volunteers**. The business community in our area has a long history of philanthropy, which has helped build the region over the past 100 years.

You can participate in this tradition of giving: if you work for a company that offers **matching gifts**, please ask how you can take advantage of this program. Many companies will match employees' charitable donations dollar for dollar. If you have any questions, my contact information is below.

We are grateful to the individuals and organizations making gifts to us between May 2 and July 3, 2013:

**\$5,000 and above** The Reuter Foundation • Himan Brown Charitable Trust

**\$1,000 to \$4,999** RPM, Inc. • Forest City Enterprises • United Black Fund • Lincoln Electric Foundation • The Milton A. & Charlotte R. Kramer Foundation • Lisa Foley

**\$500 to \$999** The Lubrizol Foundation • Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging • Dominion East Ohio

**\$100 to \$499** Progressive Insurance Co. • A.M. McGregor Home • The Crandall, Jarzabek & Cox Group • Hospice of the Western Reserve • University Suburban Health Center • Helen Chamberjian • Judson at University Circle • Habitat for Humanity • Carol Durgan

**Other Gifts** AARP Cleveland Heights Chapter 5018 • Calvin Johnson • Cuyahoga County Bd. of Developmental Disabilities • Stanley Wertheim • Patty Dotts • Kathy Marszalek • John Wilkins • Mildred Lowe • Frances Johnson • Jeanette Savage • West Shore Separated & Divorced Catholics Group • Kelvie Tyus • Mark Carden • Ann Zellmer • Jill Fowler • Michael E. Smith • Calvin Leonard • Tom Skrovan • James Williams • Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center • Darlene Johnson-Cargill • William Leahy • Ann Eland

**In-Kind Gifts** Consolidated Graphics Group • Kathie Buckner • Mandel JCC of Cleveland • Patty Dotts • Mary Lou Pollak • John Reynolds

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### Naming AND Dedication OPPORTUNITIES



Greater  
Cleveland  
Volunteers  
improving lives through volunteerism

Our **Naming & Dedication campaign** has begun! We are offering a limited number of dedication opportunities for offices and other items in our new suite at 4415 Euclid Avenue.

This will be the first such campaign in our 41-year history – and we invite you to be a part of it. You can donate in honor or in memory of someone close to you, and you can craft a personal message on the dedication marker. The funds will support our programs and/or our Endowment Fund.

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Alan Goldman  
Development Director  
216-391-9500 x 113  
agoldman@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



ideastream®



ideastream® is a nonprofit organization that applies the power of media to education, culture and citizenship. It includes public broadcasting stations WVIZ/PBS, 90.3 WCPN and WCLV 104.9, educational and public service cable channels, broadband interactive video distance learning, the Internet and other interactive media.

The mission of ideastream is to strengthen our communities. The organization actively seeks to accomplish this beginning with The Listening Project- an annual effort by WVIZ/ PBS & 90.3 WCPN ideastream to identify “the things that matter most” to residents of Northeast Ohio. Via quarterly surveys to the community, a careful and ongoing ascertainment of community needs is acquired. ideastream uses this information to create and deliver content that connects those who seek knowledge with those who have it.

Content produced as a result of The Listening Project includes the Be Well health series, currently highlighting the problem of being “Young & Obese.” State Impact Ohio, a project which explains local policy choices in ways that are easy to understand, yet thorough and fair, covers issues related to education in Northeast Ohio.

Other local programs such as Applause and The Sound of Applause celebrate cultural happenings in Northeast Ohio.

Statistics prove that 2.8 million people in Northeast Ohio and beyond are touched by ideastream programs and services in a typical month.

Throughout the year, ideastream hosts seven pledge drives (three for WVIZ/PBS, two for 90.3 WCPN and two for WCLV 104.9). Each spring the annual WVIZ/PBS Televised Auction happens. Through these fundraisers about 30% of ideastream’s funding is obtained.

Volunteers are a critical source of support to ideastream. Volunteers bring their time and skills to staff and help facilitate pledge drives and the annual WVIZ/PBS Televised Auction. Volunteers help raise the funds needed to create the content our communities say they need.

During pledge drives, volunteers answer telephones and data enter each caller’s information. Groups of 10-12 volunteers are needed to help with WVIZ/PBS pledge drives. Groups of 6-8 volunteers are needed for pledge drives on 90.3 WCPN and WCLV 104.9.

All volunteers are thanked on the air. Organizations volunteering with a group size meeting the minimum number of volunteers needed receive additional on-air promotion.

Morning, day, evening and weekend hours are available during pledge drives. Training is provided at the start of each shift. Parking is free and refreshments are always provided.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at ideastream contact Nadine at 216-391-9500 x 122 or [ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).



Article and photograph submitted by ideastream



Connecting you with opportunities to serve

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Department of Justice, the State of Ohio and United Way. Greater Cleveland Volunteers gratefully acknowledges the support of Cleveland Clinic and RICOH for printing this newsletter.

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## VOLUNTEER REFERRAL CONTEST:

Do you have a friend or family member, aged 55+ that is looking for a way to make an impact in their community? Have them call our office or complete the enrollment form on our website, [greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](http://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).

When they sign up tell us that they were referred by you, and then begin volunteering in one of our "focus areas", listed below, YOUR name will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card to a local retailer. Winners will be notified in August, October and December (one winner per month).

### **We are committed to providing volunteers in these focus areas:**

**Access to Care**-providing health education and healthcare information

**Disaster Services**- assist in blood mobiles, trained for on-call response with disaster-related needs

**Education**-tutoring disadvantaged K-12 students

**Housing**-building homes for the disadvantaged and moving them into safe, affordable housing

**Hunger**-distributing food at food pantries and providing hot meals to low income, homebound seniors

**Job Preparedness**-helping adults prepare for employment opportunities through literacy instructions, GED preparation, and computer instruction

Questions: Contact Kirsten at 216-391-9500 x114 or  
contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org