

Greater Cleveland Volunteers News

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

The Executive's

Directions

Spring brings changes



Even though we are still likely to see a few snowflakes, it is so nice to see more sunshine with the arrival of spring. This spring has brought not only changes to the weather but also changes at Greater Cleveland Volunteers- all of which are good changes! To start with, we moved our offices to a new location in March. We are now in the Cleveland Midtown Innovation Center building at 4415 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200. I like the name of our building and hope it inspires us to be more innovative to meet the needs in our community through volunteerism. We welcome you to stop by for a visit during our open house on Thursday April 25, details are on the back cover.

Along with a new location, we also have a new employee, Nadine Gamble. Nadine comes with a great deal of experience in volunteer management and will be working with our partner agencies that are not part of our RSVP program. You can read more about Nadine on page 5.

This spring has given us another reason to celebrate. We recently learned that our agency won a federal grant competition to continue as the sponsor of the Cuyahoga County chapter of the national RSVP volunteer program, a program we have managed for over 40 years. This program has gone through a lot of changes over the years, but is better than ever with its focus on engaging adults age 55+ to volunteer to address urgent community needs. We are proactively working to grow this program and encourage you to help us by spreading the word to people that might be interested. You can read more about our RSVP program's priorities on the RSVP page of our website: greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/rsvp_program.php.

National Volunteer Week is April 21-27. Each year during this week we take time to thank our volunteers for their efforts. From those volunteers that help at one-time events to those that serve 5 days a week, we appreciate your dedication to making our community a better place. Take a look at the newsletter insert that has special coupons to recognize your volunteer efforts.

Our staff and partner agencies are looking forward to our annual volunteer recognition luncheon which is Thursday, June 20th. The invitation is on page 2.

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Volunteers: This is your invitation for the celebration

*Greater Cleveland Volunteers
Recognition Luncheon*

*Thursday, June 20, 2013
Event begins at 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn—Independence
6001 Rockside Rd., Independence, 44131*

This year exhibitors with information to share

Your chance to supply a video/photo testimonial about volunteering

We are holding a personal hygiene collection of new items for our partner agencies with clients in need. We will issue an extra prize ticket given for donations you bring

Recognition of Volunteers

Door Prizes

50-50 Raffle

THE DETAILS:

- ♦ Volunteers who have served a total of 25 hours + between January 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013, **may attend for a cost of \$5.** Guests and volunteers with less than 25 hours during that period are invited to attend for \$25.
- ♦ Make your reservation with the **volunteer manager at the agency where you volunteer regularly.** This person has received a list of Greater Cleveland Volunteers, who according to our records, are eligible to attend the luncheon. All reservations are due by June 7, 2013.
- ♦ Experience Corps volunteers should make their reservations with their Site Coordinator.
- ♦ Volunteers who only volunteer for Team events and/or Cleveland schools other than those in the EC program will be sent individual reservation letters. If you believe you fall into one of these categories or self-report your volunteer hours and have not received a letter by May 2, 2013 please call the Greater Cleveland Volunteers office, 216-391-9500 x 115.
- ♦ Unlimited Free parking is available at the hotel.
- ♦ Bus #35, the Garfield Mall line leaves Public Square at 10:26 a.m. and arrives at the top of the hill in front of the hotel at 11:15 a.m. Hotel vans will be available to pick up guests there and bring them to the door of the ballroom. This is the only bus stop where hotel van service will be available.
- ♦ Senior center vans and buses will be permitted to drop off and pick up volunteers at the front doors of the hotel.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT



Cuyahoga County Public Library
cuyahogalibrary.org

Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) consistently ranks among the nation's best and busiest library systems. CCPL serves nearly 620,000 residents in 47 communities across Cuyahoga County. Its mission is to be at the center of community life by providing an environment where reading, lifelong learning and civic engagement thrive.

Since 2003, CCPL's award-winning Homework Center program has impacted the lives of thousands of at-risk students in grades K – 10. The program seeks to help improve students' grades and subject comprehension, improve their attitudes toward school and increase their self esteem.

Students receive homework assistance from trained tutors – in such subjects as math, science and language arts – and take part in games and activities designed to foster a lifelong love of education. The Homework Centers also provide students with access to educational books and games, support materials for State Achievement Tests and online learning resources.

Homework Centers are open after school Monday through Thursday from mid-October through mid-May in ten CCPL branch locations.

Tutors are provided through America Reads – a national work-study program that collaborates with universities to train university students to tutor and mentor youth – Greater Cleveland Volunteers and other community partners.

In the 2011-2012 school year alone, the Homework Centers conducted more than 12,600 individual student homework sessions, and served students from 35 communities and more than 140 individual school locations.

The parents of the students who used the Homework Centers were surveyed and 100 percent said the Homework Centers helped their child with subject comprehension and that they would recommend the Homework Centers program to another parent or child. Nearly 80 percent of parents reported that their child's grades had improved.

To learn more, visit <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Services/Homework-Centers.aspx>.

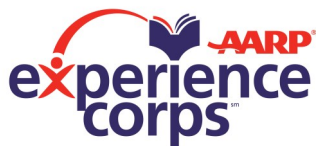
If you have interest in volunteering at a Homework Center please contact Lynette at 216-391-9500 x 123 or Imaistros@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

HOMework CENTER VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Article content and photographs submitted from
Cuyahoga County Public Library

PROUD AFFILIATE



HELLO FRIENDS:

The school year is winding down and it is time for Spring Break! End of the year on-going service trainings will be held in mid-April at the school district professional development center. On the agenda is Summer Reading strategies and Comprehension activities. School Based Programs Director Debra Kay will present a session on Academic Mentoring and team building.

UPS Volunteers gave us three days of their time to sort and catalogue over 1000 reference and non-fiction books that will make up our new Reference Library. Tutors will be able to check out books on a subject that interests their students to build excitement and encourage reading. These books are a key component of the new national curriculum that stresses comprehending this type of reading in subjects such as science, social studies and history. Volunteers also gave us their time to distribute books to our schools before the move to our new offices.



Thank you all for giving your valuable time to mentor and tutor students who need it most. Happy Spring!

Debra Kay
Director, School Based Programs
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We are nearing the end of our fifth year serving Cleveland schools, and I can't say a big enough *thank you* to all the "My Mentor My Friend" volunteers who have been spending lunch time once a week or more with students referred by their teachers to our program!

Students have grown to like and trust their mentors as they've had fun at lunch time talking, playing games or doing other activities together. Mentors tell me just simple things are so satisfying . . . "Seeing his big smile"; Getting to know her true personality"; "Learning we have things in common"; "Feeling so welcomed by him!"

Teachers and social workers feel students benefit from mentoring. The most recent research provided by MENTOR's newly created Research and Policy Council reports that these consistent moments of support and attention do make a positive impact in the lives of mentored students in a school environment.

Our teachers have confirmed positive results at the end of each of our mentoring years. They've seen **improved self-esteem** and **social skills** in **82%** of the students they've referred to the program. And **85%** of students and mentors reported **improved self-confidence, peer relations** and ability to **stay out of trouble** as a result a strong mentoring relationship.

If you have any questions about the program and/or would like to volunteer to be a part of My Mentor My Friend, please contact me.

Carol Hasek, Coordinator
My Mentor My Friend
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The **National Senior Games**, presented by Humana, will take place July 19 - August 1 in and around downtown

Cleveland. 13,000 pre-qualified athletes over the age of 50 from all 50 states and Canada are expected to compete in one of 19 sports. The community is invited to join the fun by volunteering or attending sporting events, or by attending the **Opening Festival on Mall B on July 19, the Cleveland Senior Walk on July 25, the Celebration of Athletes on July 26**, or stopping by The Village - **All of these events and activities are free and open to the public.** For more information, visit www.cleveland2013.com

As part of the National Senior Games, a year-long programming series called **The Year of Vitality** has been planned to educate older adults in the community about health and wellness topics. A full schedule of programs can be found at: <http://www.nsga.com/year-of-vitality.aspx>



Greater Cleveland Volunteers is partnering with the Senior Games and is pleased to host one of the Year of Vitality programs called **Go4Life**. Go4Life is a science-based exercise program that offers specific exercises, motivational tips, success stories, and free materials to help older adults (50+) get ready, start exercising, and keep going.

We invite our volunteers and friends who are 50+ to attend either of these FREE programs on:

Wednesday, May 29th at 2:00 p.m. at our office building- 4415 Euclid Avenue
or one on **Monday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m.** at the Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd. 44122.

Workshop space is limited, reservations required for both at 216-391-9500.

NEW STAFF MEMBER



We welcome our newest member of the staff, Nadine Gamble. Nadine comes to us as a recent director for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, where she worked with and trained volunteers, on a military base in California.

Nadine will serve as a coordinator with our partner agencies that focus on health care, arts and culture, senior centers as well as a few other non-profit agencies that offer community support throughout Cuyahoga County. Welcome Nadine!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Ken Cigany (pictured below) with wife and volunteer, Patti) for receiving the Spotlight Award at the annual United Way Spotlight Awards ceremony.



Ken is the Director of the Greater Cleveland Volunteers' RSVP Players writing, casting, producing and directing most of the skits for approximately 50 performances each year for senior groups throughout Northeast Ohio. Ken has written skits dealing

with a variety of issues that we face as we age. Ken spends countless hours creating and perfecting the material to provide the best for the audiences.

Commenting on the award he revealed. "I really appreciate the award. Basically, I just have fun entertaining the audience. I go to these places to be a blessing and I end up being the one that's blessed."

Your time and energy is invaluable to Greater Cleveland Volunteers, thanks Ken!!

RSVP Players information:
Call Sue at 216-391-9500 x 120
ssmith@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

SHOP TALK...from the Development Office

As I write this column, I am in our lovely new office space at 4415 Euclid Avenue. We are all very pleased with the new suite, and you can see a few photos below. And we want to give our volunteers and friends the opportunity to be a part of this phase in our agency's life.

We are offering **naming rights** and **dedication opportunities** within the new space. Beginning with a gift of \$1,000, you can honor or memorialize someone while providing support to the vital work of civic engagement.

A full list of opportunities will be available this spring. In the meantime, to discuss possibilities, my contact information is below.



Small Conference Room



Large Conference Room

We thank donors who have provided gifts since our last newsletter:

Pioneer Ridge Homeowners Association • Elaine Zimmerman • Stanley & Dr. Sally Wertheim • Edward A. & Catherine L. Lozick Foundation • Harry K. Fox & Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation • B. Kathleen Shamp • Jo Reed • Robert Targett • Fedor Manor • Margaret Trevis • Charles Morelli • Bonnie Lindberg • Sol Shack • The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust • Edna Mattox • June Rosenfeld

We also want to thank those partner agencies who have become members this year:

Cleveland Police Auxiliary • Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center • Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging • International Women's Air & Space Museum • Great Lakes Science Center • Marymount Hospital • Golden Age Centers • Nature Center at Shaker Lakes • University Hospitals • Friends of the Rockefeller Greenhouse • Council of International Programs • Euclid Senior Programs • Ronald McDonald House • Western Reserve Historical Society • Cleveland Metroparks • American Cancer Society • The MetroHealth System • Joyful Noise • Murtis Taylor Multi-Service Center

Alan Goldman
Development Director
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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.

Alzheimer's support group: Trained professionals are needed to co-facilitate monthly support groups for individuals with Dementia or Alzheimer's. Training is provided. Contact Sue.

Cleveland Botanical Garden is seeking volunteers to help with child games and activity assistants and engage families in a variety of activities through April 28th. Monday-Friday 11 a.m.to 4 p.m. and Wednesday and Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. Contact Jan.

Bowling: Volunteers are needed to provide assistance to adults in wheelchairs during games of bowling. Various tasks available. Contact Jan.

After-school homework tutors. The Cuyahoga County Public Library could use assistance with tutoring needs of students in grades K-6 or 7-10 at many of the library branches. Monday –Thursday 4 to 6 p.m. Contact Lynette.

Prison Visitor: Be a friend to an adult who is working on improving their lives while incarcerated. This is an opportunity to make a lasting difference in someone's life in just one visit per month! Women visit women in Cleveland; men visit men in the Grafton facility. Mandatory background check. Contact Lynette.

Hospital ICU Volunteer: Assist families in the ICU waiting area at Marymount Hospital. Contact Nadine

Clerical Assistance:

Help is needed with data entry, mass mailings, photocopying, taking inventory, social media tasks, and assisting the Membership department. General office equipment. General office equipment and Microsoft Office knowledge is helpful. Location Shaker Heights. Contact Nadine.

Senior Games: We are recruiting volunteers to help at the various events associated with the Senior Games this summer. Contact Jan.

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

Kirsten x 114	kfrei-herrmann@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Sue x 120	ssmith@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Lynette x 123	lmaistros@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Nadine x 122	ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

CHECK OUT THE NEWSLETTER INSERT FILLED WITH COUPONS FOR YOU TO REDEEM DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, April 21-27, 2013

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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***Join us on
Thursday,
April 25th***

3:00-6:00 p.m.

**TO CELEBRATE OUR OPEN HOUSE AND
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK
4415 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200
Cleveland 44103**

**Call us at 216-391-9500 to let us know if you can stop in for
a tour of our new office and to enjoy some
light refreshments.**

Directions: greaterclevelandvolunteers.org