

Greater Cleveland News Volunteers

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

The Executive's


 Directions

Partnerships Pay Off



Greater Cleveland Volunteers has always partnered with many different groups and organizations. This year has brought several new partnerships. We were pleased to have added some new nonprofits as partner agencies such as ED-WINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute, Lifebanc, College Now, Cuyahoga Community College, NAMI Greater Cleveland, and Towards Employment. These agencies offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities that help those in need in our community.

Through a shared effort with one of our long-time partners, WVIZ-WCPN ideastream, we collect thousands of personal hygiene and toiletry items which were donated to some of our partner agencies that serve low income and homeless clients. We held our second annual food drive on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January which benefitted several of the hunger centers we partner with. Planning is already underway for this event in mid-January 2014.

We receive wonderful financial support from many local businesses and some have taken their support a step further by having their employees volunteer to help us accomplish our work. Special thanks to Key Bank and UPS for all of their help this year. They are true partners!

Partnerships with the Cleveland Gladiators, Wine & Canvas, and McNulty's Bier Markt helped us spread the word about volunteering and raise funds for our programs. A newly formed partnership with Gray & Company, Publishers is providing a 30% discount to anyone that buys books using a special Greater Cleveland Volunteers code. **Our agency will receive a percentage of every sale as a contribution through December 31.** If you enjoy reading, or are thinking about buying a book for someone as a holiday gift, please go to www.clevelandbooks.com and check out the selection of books about Cleveland or written by Cleveland authors. Use the code **VOL13CLE10** to receive your discount and support Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

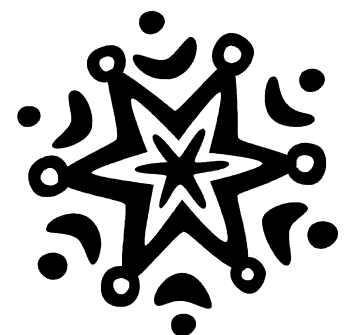
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We look forward to continued partnerships in 2014 and many exciting new opportunities.

Happy Holidays!

Joy Banish
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VIVA VOLUNTEERS WAS A SUCCESS

Our annual benefit, Viva Volunteers was victorious again this year with a wonderful celebration. 150 attendees enjoyed the evening with a silent auction, great presentations and very deserving award recipients. The event raised more than \$46,000 for Greater Cleveland Volunteers AARP Experience Corps program.

Every year the Community Partner Award is presented to an organization or business that supports Greater Cleveland Volunteers. The Cleveland Foundation has done so since 1982. Over its 31 years of beneficence, the Foundation has provided \$1.7 million in grants.

In recent years the Foundation's funding has



Mike Smith, Board President and Joy Banish, Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, pose with Bob Eckardt, Executive Vice-President of the Cleveland Foundation.

been focused primarily on furthering the AARP Experience Corps literacy tutoring program in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

This year a live auction was added to the event. The attendees generously sponsored services for the AARP EC literacy tutoring program. Through this action, \$9,875 was raised to provide summer reading kits to students, tutoring supplies, training sessions for the tutors, and new books so the students can build up their home libraries to continue reading.

Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Metropolitan School District attended and validated the successes by the students who are in the tutoring program.



Eric Gordon with Debra Kay, Director of School Based Programs, Greater Cleveland Volunteers and Joy Banish.

The David F. Leahy Award for Volunteer Excellence went to Bruce Amsel. Bruce volunteers for several of our partner agencies.

Amsel was nominated by Cleveland Metroparks because of his outstanding service to the Park District for nearly 13 years. He performs a variety of volunteer roles such as; a bicycle tour assistant, a children's history club assistant, helping at special events, conducting historical research for presentations and assisting park visitors at CanalWay Visitor Center.



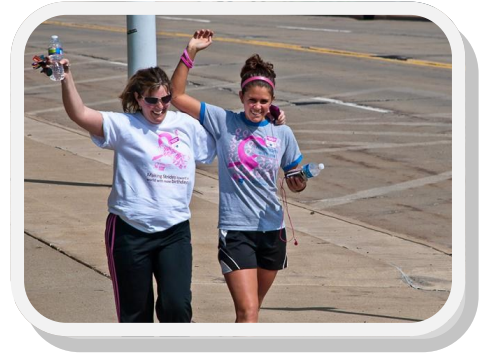
Mike Smith and Joy Banish flank Bruce Amsel

CONGRATULATIONS to both our award recipients. Your efforts to Greater Cleveland Volunteers are appreciated. Thank You.

PARTNER AGENCY HIGHLIGHT



Together with millions of supporters, the American Cancer Society saves lives and creates a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.



Helping people stay well

More than half of all cancer deaths could be prevented by making healthy choices like not smoking, staying at a healthy weight, eating right, keeping active, and getting recommended screening tests. The Society helps people take steps to prevent cancer or detect it at its earliest, most treatable stage.

Helping people get well.

Whether recently diagnosed, currently going through treatment, or caring for a loved one with cancer, the Society is available 24/7 with free cancer information and services at 1-800-227-2345 and cancer.org. Day-to-day help to guides patients through their cancer journey, and connects them with community programs and services, like free lodging, transportation assistance, or emotional support.



Finding cures.

The American Cancer Society funds groundbreaking research that helps understand cancer's causes, determine how best to prevent it, and discover new ways to cure it. Having contributed more than \$3.8 billion, no single nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization in the US has invested more to find the causes and cures of cancer.

Fighting back.

The American Cancer Society works with lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and rally communities worldwide to join the fight. Whether it's through participation in the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, or involvement in Relay For Life or Making Strides

Against Breast Cancer, the American Cancer Society can help survivors, caregivers, and the community fight back against cancer.

Volunteer opportunities with the Society include administrative/front desk positions, patient service positions as drivers for Road to Recovery, event planning/fundraising, and day-of-event assistance, among many others!

Be sure to contact Nadine at 216-391-9500 x 122 or ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Article and photographs supplied by American Cancer Society





Just How Important Are Literacy Tutors?

This year, more than ever, the AARP Experience Corps program is needed

in the schools to help our young children learn their reading skills. Two major shifts in education have occurred and are being implemented by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.



Common Core State Standards have been adopted by 43 states. Common Core Standards were developed through a collaboration of educators and researchers and

will ensure that all children in all school districts will have the same outcomes. Although not a curriculum, it includes both content and the application of knowledge in English Language Arts, Math and Technology. The intent is simple: align our education with expectations for college and career success on a global scale. AARP Experience Corps volunteers will receive specialized training developed by national experts on these standards.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee was adopted as state law and ensures that every struggling reader gets the support he or she needs to be able to learn and achieve. Schools evaluate all children in grades K-3 to determine their reading level. If behind, the school will immediately start a reading improvement plan based on the students' unique reading problems. AARP Experience Corps traditionally provides individualized help to each student in this way. This help is important to each child's success.

Debra Kay
Director School Based Programs
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Though we've had a later start than in past years, many of our mentors have been able to renew friendships with their students.

This is important to not only the students, but to the teachers and administration who discover the benefits of continued connections.

At **Charles W. Eliot**, we are especially happy to have our own mentoring space this year. (Thank you, Ms. Ibrahim!) Alice McCoy and Ke'awnni and June Johnson-Ferrell and Precious have happily met there, and Joann Robinson and Daniesa are enjoying getting to know one another.

At **Denison** School, 7th graders Jason, Terry and Draten are starting their 3rd year in the program with mentors Dennis Flynn, Chris Gee and Larry Jemison. Jarod and Erin Dorsey will be happy to see each other when she is able to get away from a busy work schedule, and Mariah and Caroline Rubin have already been enjoying each other's company. Students like Posey and Yamir at **Wilson** School have stopped me in the halls, they've been so anxious to see their mentors Toni Muhammad and Chris Cabot.

Mound STEM mentors have renewed friendships with their students as well.

As busy as they are, teachers are persistently sending required parent permissions home for the students they feel would benefit from seeing a friendly, supportive face **once a week at lunch time**. We truly appreciate their support. Our new volunteer mentors will be matched with students as those referrals come to us.

Mentoring occurs once a week, but the connections will last a lifetime. To learn more about becoming a mentor please contact me.

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PARTNER AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School is dedicated to providing the free use of instruments and free lessons to low income children on the west side of Cleveland. By doing so, they help children learn new skills, achieve self-confidence, and enjoy a sense of accomplishment. Through the lessons at Joyful Noise, children learn self discipline, practice that leads to successful progress, and the joy of music. All of this will be a life long benefit.

Joyful Noise is able to offer quality music education at no charge, because of a dedicated corps of volunteer teachers. The Board of Directors and the Executive Director and the general staff are also volunteers.

Volunteers teach a wide range of instruments, along with voice, drama, and dance.

Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School has been in operation for more than nine years. During that time, students have gone on to continued studies/performing at the School of the Arts, the Baldwin Wallace junior orchestra, and various music programs around Cleveland.

Several of their graduates have returned to volunteer as teachers and staff. Everyone at Joyful Noise, parents, students, teachers and volunteers share an enthusiasm for the undeniable joy of music and the benefits of music education.

If you have an interest or special skills to offer this agency, call Nadine at 216-391-9500 x 122, or ngamle@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Article supplied by
Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School.

Satisfaction Surveys coming soon!

In order to gather feedback on the services provided by Greater Cleveland Volunteers, we will be distributing our annual satisfaction surveys in **February 2014**. Watch for it and respond upon receipt. Thank You!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Larry Goldrick has been registered with Greater Cleveland Volunteers for almost two years and consistently serves at the International Services Center.



The center is the oldest refugee resettlement center in the city, at 97 years old. Various services are provided to the clients so they can adjust to their new home.

Larry volunteers weekly in the job development area. He encourages the clients by helping them prepare for employment and also does work in helping find potential employers who would hire these clients.

He also provides positive support as a mentor at Case Western Reserve University where he works with foreign students. In addition he volunteers at the Great Lakes Science Center and Cleveland Metroparks.

Because of his efforts and sincere concern, he was recently recognized by the Center for Community Solutions with their Most Treasured Volunteer (MTV) Award. ***Congratulations, Larry!***

CEO VISITS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Wendy Spencer, visited our RSVP program volunteers at Willson School recently. Ms. Spencer took time to speak to the volunteers who serve as tu-

tors in our AARP Experience Corps program about their work and to hear from the school staff about the impact these tutors are making.

Shop Talk... *from the Development office*

Before telling you why your support is so important to us, I thank you for your interest in Greater Cleveland Volunteers and for your past generosity. Your gifts are crucial to the success of our programs.

Let me highlight six primary areas that our volunteers address through their service:



Each of those boxes represents many lives that are positively impacted by our volunteers' activities. Please help up continue this work by making an annual gift to Greater Cleveland Volunteers. A donation envelope is included in the printed version of this newsletter. You may also donate on our website at www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support/giving.php.

There are other ways to support us as well:

Does your company offer matching gifts for its employees? If so, you can double your contribution by applying for a match. This is frequently handled by the human resources or payroll managers.

Are you age 70 1/2 or older? Do you have an IRA (individual retirement account)? If so, you can direct part of your minimum required distribution to Greater Cleveland Volunteers tax-free. A number of donors have taken advantage of this opportunity. (Please note the transfer needs to be done before December 13st).

Are you thinking about your estate plan? A bequest to Greater Cleveland Volunteers (leaving a financial gift through your will) is a thoughtful way to continue your charitable activities beyond your own lifetime.

If you would like to know more, or have any questions, please use my contact information below. I am happy to respond, have a conversation with you, and to review options.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is very grateful to the individuals and organizations making gifts to support our work. We will publish the list of recent donors in the January/February newsletter issue.

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

Computer Lab Job Search Assistants- assist homeless men in further developing their computer skills. Help shelter residents with online job searches and related computer training to empower them with skills to achieve a new beginning. Basic computer skills needed. Flexible schedule available. Downtown. Contact Jan.

Exercise Instructor- help men & women veterans living in a shelter improve their health. Exercise instructors are needed to lead a class of 6-10 vets on Thursdays, from 6-7:30 pm . If you are an exercise enthusiast, this is the place for you! University Circle. Contact Jan.

Field Trip Assistant: an east side nature center is looking for adults to accompany first graders on field trips to the Cleveland Lakefront Preserve. Help with filling out field journals, learning the mechanics of binoculars and pulling invasive plants. Must be able to hike 3-4 miles per day and tend to the needs of students. Experience in working with young children is helpful as well as knowledge about local plants. Must be able to commit to 4 trips between March and May, 10 a.m. –2 p.m. Mandatory background check. Contact Nadine.

Friendly visitors: visit with dialysis patients while they undergo treatments or with hospice patients in their homes or in nursing homes. Make a patient's day brighter by chatting with them, reading to them or other activities! Opportunities available throughout Northeast Ohio. Contact Lynette.

Helpline volunteer – field phone calls from family members, consumers and the general public about issues related to mental health. (Not a therapy helpline.) Training provided. Needed 3-4 hours once a week, Mondays-Fridays. Mandatory Background check. Near west side. Contact Sue.

Homework Helpers– help students in grades K-10 with their homework at an afterschool program located at many county library branches. East & west side opportunities available. Mondays-Thursdays. Contact Lynette.

Library Coordinator – organize and maintain library materials at a nonprofit agency assisting those with mental illness. Computer literacy required; background working in a library preferred or strong organizational skills. Flexible hours during business hours, Monday-Friday, 9-5. Mandatory Background check. Near west side. Contact Sue.

Mock Interviewers– help the formerly incarcerated gain interview skills for their second chance. Job training program needs volunteers to “interview” clients for practice. Opportunity also exists to help the clients look for jobs online and assist in their computer lab. Flexible schedules; weekdays 9 am- 5 pm. No regular commitment needed. Parking provided. Downtown. Contact Jan.

Organ Donation Ambassador – discuss organ and tissue donation with the general public and register individuals on the Ohio Donor Registry at various programs, presentations and events. Presenters are also needed to share their personal stories with groups. Flexible schedule. Mandatory Background check. Contact Sue.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Michael E. Smith
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**From the Staff of
Greater Cleveland
Volunteers
we send you
Happy Holiday
Greetings.**



SPECIAL EVENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

GLOW at the Garden: The yearly holiday celebration at the Cleveland Botanical Garden needs your help to assist as a friendly greeter, hand out information and administrator guest surveys. Craft/Activity Assistants also needed for children's make-and-take stations. Shifts available from December 10th to January 5th include:

Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. or 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday evenings 5-9 p.m.

Sundays 12 noon – 4 p.m. or 1-5 p.m.

Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124

or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org