Volunteer Spotlight
“Where I want to volunteer”

While contemplating retirement, Laura Champa was fearful that she would become lazy and enjoy it too much. In considering what she could do with her spare time, she attended a Greater Cleveland Volunteers Information Session, where she heard from representatives of several organizations, including St. Augustine Health Ministries. After hearing the kind of opportunities available at St. Augustine, Laura says she knew “This is where I want to volunteer.”

St. Augustine, a Greater Cleveland Volunteers partner, is a faith-based, nonprofit organization founded by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland. It is dedicated to providing a continuum of health care and social services within the community, providing skilled nursing, long-term care, assisted living, rehab, and community programs (such as meals and hospice) to low-income residents.

Laura has now been with St. Augustine for more than two years. Wanting to work one-on-one with residents, Laura started out filling water pitchers for patients. That evolved into assisting at nurses stations. Laura volunteers Wednesdays for three or four flexible hours. Her tasks can include scanning medical records and answering the phones. You can also find her visiting with long-term patients, helping transport patients to various activities and other odds and ends. “It’s a good feeling knowing that maybe you made a difference in their lives.”

Laura has insight on what keeps her active at St. Augustine Ministries, “While volunteering equals no pay, it also equals no stress. I am enjoying it. I love the work and the wonderful opportunity to be part of the St. Augustine community.”

If you have an interest in joining Laura and the other volunteers at St. Augustine contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

SPECIAL EVENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

During the year we receive requests for special event (one-time) volunteering needs. You can register at https://greaterclevoals.vsyslive.com/pages/tool:any.vol.joblookup or call 216-391-9500 x 2114.

NEO STREAM COMMUNITY DAY– 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 27th. Local conference is being held at Cleveland State University and has requested volunteers to escort attendees from the elevators, parking lot, registration and workshops throughout the day. For easy identification to the attendees, the volunteers are required to wear a white shirt and black/navy pants or skirt.

JINGLE BELL RUN- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 9th. Help is needed at the Arthritis Foundation’s race being held at Legacy Village. Volunteers will serve as greeters, help with registration and distribute Arthritis information at the booth.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION - November 5th and 20th. Two locations in Cuyahoga County.
We continue to connect

As a supporter of Greater Cleveland Volunteers, you will notice that we have designed methods to remain connected to you all year!

One is this newsletter! We publish it six times a year with the purpose of featuring reflective volunteer stories, highlighting a partner agency (did you know we have 100+!), thanking our donors who believe in our mission by keeping our services continuous, updating everyone on volunteer opportunities and reporting other news from our agency or volunteering in general.

Another service is our “Stay In Touch” calls. Which is exactly that, we have volunteers and staff who will call volunteers to not only thank them for their service, but also confirm their contact information is accurate and if they have any questions about other volunteering opportunities.

If you need to update your contact information at any time during the year, please go to our website greaterclevelandvolunteers.org. Log into your profile by using your username and password. If you have any issues logging in, contact Denise Database Coordinator at dreyes@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

On-Line feature: You can sign up for special event opportunities online. Sign in with your username and password and you can schedule yourself for the upcoming special event opportunities. A great, easy-to-use feature for the upcoming busy special event “season”.

Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x an at 216-391-9500 x 124 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

We’re Connected:
One of our partner agencies

Volunteers at the Maltz Performing Arts Center serve a cross-section of Cleveland’s population, from classical music subscribers to inner-city youth.

Originally built in 1924 by the Temple-Tifereth Israel, this landmark building in University Circle was known as Silver’s Temple for 80 years. It was restored and renovated as a full-featured concert hall by Case Western Reserve University in 2015.

Volunteer ushers attend some of the most diverse and exciting programming on Cleveland’s cultural scene – from the best in local classical music to appearances by world-famous authors, teachers and thinkers.

To become part of Cleveland’s fastest-growing concert venue, contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Making things happen:
Meet one of our Funders

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation

Our agency is proud to recognize The Dollar General Literacy Foundation for their long-time support of our AARP Foundation Experience Corps program!

Their latest grant will help us continue to provide access to comprehensive literacy tutoring to K-3rd grade students in the Cleveland Metropolitan and Euclid City School Districts.

Through the steadfast support of our funders such as Dollar General, our Experience Corps program continues to thrive, helping nearly 400 students reach their full learning potential each school year.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation was established in 1993 J.L. Turner. Turner, who was functionally illiterate with only a third-grade education, quit school so he could work on the family farm and help provide for his family. With hard work and determination, J.L. Turner went on to co-found what we know today as Dollar General.
Volunteer Opportunities
Maybe you’ll consider these requests

Food Pantry— Assist at a social services west side food pantry by packing grocery bags that will later be delivered to or picked up by clients of the agency. Morning and evening hours available. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Reading Buddy- Tutor children in grades K-3 utilizing reading lessons provided. Volunteers are needed Monday-Thursday 4:45-6:00 p.m. on the west side of Cleveland. Contact Nancy at 216-291-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Resume Writer- Volunteers needed for flexible shifts 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in creating resumes. Must be computer literate and have basic knowledge and workings of templates for completion. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Special Events Assistant- Help greet visitors, answer questions and assist with tours during scheduled open house hours at Senior Living Facility in Brecksville. Volunteers needed up to 3 times a month and possibly weekends. Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Literacy Tutors- Help struggling early readers learn basic reading skills, with a focus on reading fluency. Daytime and after school hours available. Opportunities available at Cleveland Metropolitan and Euclid schools. Make an impact on a child in just 2 days a week. Training and ongoing support provided. Contact Ross at 216-391-9500 x 2119 or rjones@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Veterans serving Veterans- Veteran volunteers are paired with veteran hospice patients for support and social visits. Volunteers also participate in and conduct Veteran Recognition Ceremonies for patients and groups of veterans in the community. All days and times available. Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Sort Medical Supplies— Give your time sorting medical supplies to provide humanitarian aid to developing countries. Various schedules include: Tuesday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and the third Thursday of each month 5:30-7:30 p.m. Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 X 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Special Needs Assistant- Share your kindness and offer support for those with special needs by providing friendly visiting to group homes or assisting at various events with crafts and fun activities for clients. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

If you are age 50+, check out the volunteer opportunities available in the Encore Cleveland program on our website.
greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/encore.php
We have started a Young Professional group for our agency. The group enhances the community through volunteerism, networking and development in Cuyahoga County.

We invite professionals ages 21-35 who have the desire to serve their community, support the work of Greater Cleveland Volunteers and build meaningful relationships with other professionals.

For your involvement contact Melissa Elick at 216-391-9500 x 2130 or melick@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

You can receive updates via:
https://www.facebook.com/YPGreaterClevelandVolunteers/
https://www.linkedin.com/company/young-professionals-of-greater-cleveland-volunteers/

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