Volunteer Spotlight
It’s Showtime!

Jim Spearman retired from his integral technology position at Key Bank in 2016 – on his birthday! He now volunteers for the Maltz Performing Arts Center, Playhouse Square Foundation and AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program, all connected with Greater Cleveland Volunteers. He spends about 24 hours a month volunteering, plus about 30 hours a month helping out at his uncle’s auto body shop.

When that retirement day came, he took his well-deserved month of rest, then talked with colleagues about launching a new stage of life. Many directed him to Greater Cleveland Volunteers as the best resource. Jim’s goal was to add new experiences, continue learning and social networking and help others. He knew it would benefit everyone if he could match his skill set with the nonprofit’s mission.

Case Western Reserve University’s Maltz Performing Arts Center at University Circle features lectures, theatre and dance presentations along with performances presented by the CWRU Music Department in conjunction with the Cleveland Institute of Music. Jim supervises ushers, scans tickets and seats patrons. Once the programs begin he and other volunteers are provided spots to enjoy the program. “I get a chance to meet writers, lecturers, and poets. I don’t want to stop learning,” he says.

As a head usher at the Playhouse Square Theatres, his duties include overseeing his assigned volunteer staff and making sure his crew knows the seating layout and the emergency exits.

His schedule also accommodates tutoring students in kindergarten to third grade, through the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program.

Jim’s wife, Diane, an Ernst & Young retiree, also found opportunities through Greater Cleveland Volunteers. She currently volunteers at the Montefiore Home in Beachwood.

Jim is a self-described “people person.” He is quick to add with a smile, “My objective is to interact, work and have fun…and then go home without a worry. I don’t bring work home anymore!” For those considering volunteering, Jim says “the most important thing is that you match your skill set with what you like to do, what you’re good at. Yes, indeed, get out there and volunteer – that’s where you’re going to get your satisfaction.

Sign up for Special Events online! Volunteers can register online for Special Events (one-time volunteer opportunities) by entering the username and password you created during enrollment or that was sent to you in the mail.

Please check regularly for upcoming Special Events on greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/whats_new/calendar.

If you prefer to sign up via email or telephone, please contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.
Making A Difference
Our Board of Directors building momentum

The Greater Cleveland Volunteers Board of Directors held its annual meeting in December at one of our partner agencies, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM). Our thanks to LMM for hosting this meeting and sharing information about their programs, services and their 50th anniversary this year.

At the meeting, the following officers were elected for 2019:
President - Ann E. Zellmer, Vice President - Rosemary Rehner
Treasurer - Ruth Ann Peake, Secretary - Becky S. Moldaver

Recognized for their tenure on the board were:
Georgia Anetzberger, PhD (L) - 20 years and
Rosemary Rehner - 10 years

We thanked three board members who rotated off: Mark Carden, Carol Durgan and John Reynolds and welcomed three new board members: Robert P. Mast, Jessica Handlos Gentile and Shipra K. Rege

Thank you to all 26 board members - all volunteers - for their dedication and excellent leadership of our organization!

2019 Board of Directors:
Not available for the picture: J. Parke Boyer, Stephanie FallCreek, DSW, Joan Ibbett, Janet Jordan, Christine Kennedy, Robert P. Mast, Diane L. Morris, PhD, Ruth Ann Peake, (treasurer) Shipra K. Rege, Leonard Schwartz, Stanley E. Wertheim.
Legacy Gift

Make an impact on the future by including Greater Cleveland Volunteers in your estate plans. With a legacy gift you can impact the lives of our current and future volunteers and those they help in the community. There are many ways to make a legacy gift such as including Greater Cleveland Volunteers in your will, or naming the organization as a beneficiary on your retirement account or life insurance plan.

Donors that include Greater Cleveland Volunteers in their estate plans will become part of our Legacy Giving Society and be recognized in a variety of ways. If you would like to learn more about legacy giving, contact Joy Banish at 216-391-9500 x 2112 or jbanish@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Our volunteers are part of national studies

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has partnered with national researchers who are studying various components of volunteer programs and its impact on volunteers. We thank the many volunteers who have participated in these studies. Some of the research projects that you have participated in include:

Case study on the Implementation of the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program expansion to the Euclid Schools. This study looked at the effects of the program implementation on our staff and volunteers.

The Maine Center on Aging, looked at how older adult volunteers juggle volunteering with their multiple other responsibilities, such as caregiving and employment. The research hopes to identify effective volunteer recruitment and retention strategies for today’s busy adults.

Claremont Graduate University’s Quality of Life Research Center conducted an online survey of volunteers aged 60+ who are highly engaged in volunteer service. The goal was to expand knowledge about the daily lives of highly engaged volunteers and share insights with the scientific community, adults planning life after age 60, and the organizations and policy makers that serve them.

Our AARP Foundation Experience Corps program participated in a research study on the implementation of the Senior Demonstration Program grant. This grant allows our program to offer a tax-free stipend to some of our AARP Foundation Experience Corps tutors. The study will help the Corporation for National and Community Service learn from these demonstration grants.

We are encouraged that Greater Cleveland Volunteers is being sought out by these national researchers as an organization that has effective volunteer programs and highly engaged volunteers.

The Young Professionals (age 21-35) of Greater Cleveland Volunteers came together in December at Townhall in Ohio City to decorate holiday cards while enjoying craft beers and appetizers. The members designed, signed and sealed over 350 cards that were distributed to a few of our partner agencies including McGregor, Hospice of the Western Reserve and St. Augustine Health Ministries.

Judy Simon, Director of Volunteer Services at McGregor said, “Many residents do not receive cards or visitors and they smiled brightly when they opened up these cards.” This may have been a small service project but it made a big impact on the lives of those at McGregor.

The Young Professionals will volunteer in February at MedWish, one of our partner agencies.

Contact Melissa Elick at 216-391-9500 x 2130 or melick@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.
SAVE THE DATE

It’s almost time for our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

NEW LOCATION
Embassy Suites by Hilton
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131

Lunch and Program begins at 12:00 p.m.
In March invitations will be mailed to our volunteers that have served 1+ hours in 2018 as was reported by the nonprofit agency where they served.