Volunteer Spotlight
If I had a hammer

Handy or not handy, Greater Cleveland Volunteers partner, Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity may have some work for you. Just ask Mars Patterson. Although he had been a project leader for the engineering department at Allied Construction during his working years, hands-on labor was not a regular activity, “I always enjoyed working with my hands, but a white-collar job did not involve a lot of that.” That would change.

After retiring, Mars became active at United Church of Christ in Middleburg Heights, which was very involved with Habitat for Humanity (a nonprofit organization that relies on public donations to sustain their vision that helps families build and improve places to call home). Wanting to add volunteering to his days, he enrolled with Greater Cleveland Volunteers. After volunteering at one site, he was hooked and became a construction assistant. He gets plenty of guidance from the crew supervisor.

A Habitat crew consists of generally 12 people with varying levels of expertise that stay together throughout the job. In the years Mars has been volunteering, Habitat has switched from building homes to rehab and now is starting to build again. Mars now volunteers twice a week from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

“One of the most rewarding experiences for me,” says Mars, “is when we have the dedication ceremony and the owner tells me they never imagined they could own their own home. It is also gratifying when a neighbor stops by an expresses appreciation for what we’re doing in the neighborhood.”

When asked what he gets out of the experience Mars choked up slightly, “It feels like important work – stuff that needs to be done. Ecologically we recover old homes, restore neighborhoods and hopefully restore some lives.”

Mars now shares his expertise with newer volunteers. “It’s been a learning experience and I get to work with really good people, who share skills with people who have fewer skills. I encourage others to lend a hand. Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity is always looking for workers.”

Volunteer support can be given at the job sites and/or in their resale stores, ReStore. There you can help with stocking, tagging, displaying and selling merchandise. Those sales help with purchasing supplies for new home build and rehab.

To discover more about these volunteer opportunities at Greater Cleveland Habit for Humanity call Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

On-Line Communications
A reminder that we offer online capability to update your profile (contact information, volunteer interests, emergency contact, etc.) directly via a secured section on our website, https://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/volunteer.php (access my profile)
Log into your profile by using your username and password. If you have any issues logging in, contact Denise at dreyes@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.
Cleveland Pickle Fest

On Saturday, August 24th from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. we are hosting Cleveland Pickle Fest at North Coast Harbor, 800 E 9th Street Pier, Cleveland 44114. This event is a special one for Greater Cleveland Volunteers because it is a fundraiser to support our agency. We are looking for volunteers for various tasks and responsibilities at the event. As a volunteer, you will receive a T-shirt, meal, water, free parking and a ticket for one beer! After or before your shift you can enjoy the festival and all that it has to offer. Live music, pickle vendors, pickle-themed foods and a pickle eating contest are on the schedule for this fun day! Check out our vendor list below.

Backattack Snacks
Balance Pan Asian Grille
Barrio
Beal’s Pickles-N-Pints
Bold Pickins LLC
Cleveland Kraut
Cleveland Pickle
Conover Organic Farm
Great Lakes Brewing Company
Jimmy Johns
Pittsburgh Pickle Company

Pope’s Kitchen LLC
Preggo Pickle
Randy’s Pickles
Sauced Pizza Wood Fired Pizza
Stray Dog and Akron Pickle
The Crazy Cucumber
The Dogs Bag
The Ice Cream Kartel
The Lake Erie Soap Company
Wake Robin Fermented Foods

If you are interested in volunteering at Pickle Fest and to learn more about the shifts and tasks please email Nakeva Williams at nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or give her a call at 216-391-9500 x 2116. For more information about the event check out our website greaterclevelandvolunteers.org and click on events.

Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award:
Barbara Tate

Medical Mutual of Northeast Ohio recognized volunteers for their outstanding efforts at an annual awards presentation.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers special event volunteer, Barbara Tate, was one of the Honorable Mention recipients.

Barbara has been enrolled with our agency for 13 years and especially embraces the one-time special event volunteer opportunities.

What she enjoys most about volunteering?
“Meeting new people, witnessing the impact of what I can do to help others and discovering parts of Cuyahoga County I may have not otherwise visited.”

Congratulations, Barbara! Your efforts have helped for so many for years.

Making things happen:
Meet one of our Funders

Corporation for National & Community Service

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has been receiving funding from the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) since 1972. CNCS is a program of the Federal government that manages and supports national service initiatives. Programs under CNCS include AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, Senior Companion, Foster Grandparents and RSVP. CNCS provides grants to nonprofit organizations in communities throughout the U.S. so these organizations can manage one or more of these programs. Greater Cleveland Volunteers manages the RSVP program for Cuyahoga County.

There are nearly 300,000 people serving in CNCS programs. These volunteers help at more than 45,000 locations across the country to meet community needs related to education, health, energy and conservation, economic development, veterans and military families, and disaster services.

Discover more at: www.nationalservice.gov
University Hospitals and Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are an integral part of the team at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Their volunteers are exceptional individuals who take the extra steps that make a difference in the lives of patients, their families and visitors. They help in countless ways, from delivering flowers and reading materials to hospitalized patients to comforting families who are worried about loved ones. Through their deeds, direct and indirect, volunteers are an essential extension of the UH Cleveland Medical Center team.

Whether volunteers are interested in supporting patients and families on patient divisions, lowering families’ stress levels by helping them find their way around the hospital, or supporting staff behind the scenes in a clerical capacity, they may have an important role for you that will impact the hospital experience for UH patients and families.

University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center is currently accepting volunteers in many areas. Contact Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Ron Ross, Friendly Visitor volunteer, enjoys stopping in for fun chats with patients.

Liz Callahan serves as a Wayfinder volunteer. She assists visitors and patients to their correct location.

Having fun TUTORING!

If you want to witness youth succeed in school, consider volunteering in the AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program.

AARP Foundation Experience Corps is a proven national program with volunteers who are dedicated to helping children in grades K-3 become better readers before finishing third grade.

This program is operated in 6 Cleveland Metropolitan schools and 4 Euclid City schools. Volunteers are age 50+, possess a high school diploma or GED, agree to take and can pass a criminal background check, can serve at least 5 hours per week (2 days) October to May and will attend 20 hours of mandatory training.

Clara Parker (right) enjoys tutoring and tells others who are considering offering their time, "...all children need it now. It’s a reward to see the smiles on their faces when they know the words, they feel successful."

To learn more on how you can help a child improve their reading skills, contact Ross Jones at 216-391-9500 x 2119 or rjones@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Article submitted by University Hospitals
pickle-themed food
live music
pickle beer
pickled items
pickle-eating contest
raffle

FREE Admission

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