Susan Speizer’s dynamic careers in two cities spanned years of teaching and guidance. Today she flourishes in the Cleveland volunteer world.

With an emphasis on reading assistance and writing proficiencies, her career began as a reading teacher for a parochial school in 1970s New York City. When funding was discontinued for her Title 1 phonics program, she visited her Cleveland-based sister. She quickly found new employment with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District where she held several positions: 1st-grade teacher, reading teacher, director of the Social Skills Program (K-12), teaching consultant charged with developing problem-solving skills/behavior strategies for every Cleveland Metropolitan school, reading tutor for the Host program and School Literacy Specialist.

After she retired from the school district, she joined the staff of Greater Cleveland Volunteers as the Literacy Specialist/Trainer for the AARP Foundation Experience Corps tutoring program. Responsibilities included training tutors and supplying them with curriculum for K-3 students.

When Susan left that job her objective transitioned from all things reading to all things writing. One way to perfect her skills was to volunteer at Beachwood’s Montefiore, a nonprofit senior community and partner of Greater Cleveland Volunteers. She is the Writer/Editor of the monthly Montefiore newsletter, Volunteer Voice. A typical edition might have a volunteer spotlight, a list of new volunteers, photos taken by Susan, plus Poems by Susan, which she pens. Susan explains, “I do what I do best. What I love is writing - love, love, love.”

Susan also writes articles for another Greater Cleveland Volunteers partner, Community Partnership on Aging’s CARE Program, which helps older adults stay independent in their homes.

Susan relishes her behind-the-scenes journey of volunteer experience. “You think more about other people rather than yourself,” she says as she remembers her mantra, “Volunteers make a difference!”
As you think about your accomplishments this year, I hope you can count volunteering as one of them. Volunteering not only helps our community, it helps the person that volunteers. Research shows that people that volunteer are physically and mentally healthier than those that don’t volunteer.

With so many needs in our community, and so many options of how to serve, there is an opportunity for everyone. Greater Cleveland Volunteers is recruiting for hundreds of ongoing volunteer opportunities at our nonprofit partner agencies as well as for many one-time special events that are seeking volunteer help.

Sharing your time to help others is a wonderful gift to those you help and to yourself! Clara, Ron and Tatyana are shown below doing what they enjoy.

I thank all of our terrific volunteers that have given their time to help in our community this year. We appreciate your efforts and your dedication.

Enjoy the holiday season!

Joy Banish
Executive Director

The Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging is a nonprofit partner whose mission is advancing support for older adults and caregivers. One of their many programs, Nutrition Solution was developed to help tackle two major obstacles that the elderly population face as they age, social isolation and inadequate nutrition. This program is designed to assist chronically ill older adults, discharged from the hospital, that are deficient in food and nutrition education, while helping reduce social isolation.

Volunteers offer peer support and knowledge of a healthy eating lifestyle by calling one time per week to talk to the clients for approximately 20 minutes. Training and materials are provided.

To learn more, contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Enjoying your volunteer action? Send a photo and/or short story to our office!

Email to Dianna: dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

#ContinueOurActions
greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support/
**Help me Read!**

As we move through the school year we still have a need for literacy tutors. Consider setting aside time to help, encourage and create more confident students with your volunteer efforts.

**We have an urgent need** for 20 school day literacy tutors in our AARP Foundation Experience Corps program. We are in 6 buildings in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and 4 in the Euclid City School District. After training and armed with valuable resources, you work with K-3rd grade students one-on-one in the classroom with the teacher assistance. There is a 2-hour commitment 2-3 days a school week.

Contact Ross at 216-391-9500 x 2119 or rjones@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

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**On-Line Communications**

We offer online enrollment for new volunteers and to our current volunteers, the capability to update your information (contact information, volunteer interests, driver’s license, emergency contact, etc.) directly via a secured section on our website, greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/volunteers. On that page, click on Access My Profile (left column), then log into your profile by entering your username and password.

If you have any issues logging in, contact Denise dreyes@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

You can register for special event volunteer opportunities online. Sign in with your username and password and you can schedule yourself for the upcoming special event opportunities. See page 5 in this newsletter for the two we currently have.

If you have special event questions:
Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Our Volunteers are Sweet!**

Volunteer Celebration
Friday, April 24, 2020

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon and Program 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hilton Cleveland Rockside
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N, Independence, OH 44131

Invitations will be mailed in February
Volunteer Opportunities
Take a look at these listings

**Turn Trauma into Triumph**—Volunteers are needed to tutor women to obtain their GED. This is a position for those with great empathy and understanding for ladies that have been a victim of violence. Your knowledge will turn a life around and you will know how much your caring and concern placed your student/s on the well-deserved path to success. Westside location with hours available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or Monday and Wednesday 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

**Provide Medical Humanitarian Assistance**—Volunteers are needed to help sort medical supplies that are processed and sent out to developing countries. It may include sorting medical supplies into categories, matching similar items together, boxing and labeling inventory, or other projects as needed. No medical background is needed. Weekday, week night and weekend shifts available.
Contact Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

**Feed the Hungry**—Enjoy the lively and productive environment of this bright and cheery food pantry that provides much needed groceries and clothing. Volunteers must be able to lift 10 pounds and will assist with unloading food, sorting, bagging and distributing to clients. Located in Slavic Village the days and times needed are Tuesday through Friday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

**Guide through College**—College can be a new and intimidating experience for many students. You help by supporting and guiding an economically disadvantaged student through their college career. On your own schedule you will communicate and meet with a mentee to help support and advise.
Contact Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

**Receptionist**—Offer your time with Cleveland nonprofit agency’s reception desk to check-in clients for appointments. Computer knowledge is a must along with basic office skills of answering phones, making copies, scanning files and other needs as they arise. Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

**Lunchtime Buddies**—We are seeking mentors for K-5th grade students. You would help once-a-week by participating in recreational and educational activities. You will be instrumental in changing lives by helping students make healthy choices, develop high self-esteem, a positive view of the future and learn leadership/entrepreneurship skills. But most importantly, have fun and build meaningful relationships. Sessions are one hour and mentors meet one-on-one with mentees in a group setting. Professional staff members will facilitate all program activities and mentors will be trained. No previous mentoring experience required. Locations are based in Garfield Heights.
Contact Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Calling All Musicians!-Utilize your musical talent teaching children and young adults guitar, flute, piano, drums or violin. Know you are changing a life by sharing your musical gift to create the next Superstar of the Virtuoso world. Hours vary Monday through Friday 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in an Ohio City location. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Stay Active this Winter-You can get active this winter by teaching an exercise class at an assisted living facility. A volunteer is needed to lead an exercise class, encourage resident’s participation in the exercise class and monitor for safety, follow instructions of wellness staff regarding class content, set-up and put away exercise equipment and transport residents as needed. Previous experience with teaching exercise classes, preferred. Available Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Contact Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Enjoy the Arts While Volunteering-If you enjoy the arts, consider serving as an Art Gallery Attendant. You will greet visitors and be a vital part of the Gallery by making them feel welcome and appreciated. Locations vary throughout Cuyahoga County and the days and hours are very flexible with the average shift lasting only a few hours. If you enjoy people and art this is the perfect position for you! Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Community Health Educator-Health educators are dedicated volunteers who help raise awareness, provide education and expand the reach on health topics in the community. One area that needs awareness and reach is that of the Alzheimer’s disease. Volunteers work with staff partners to identify and coordinate educational programs that reach targeted audiences and help provide education on the challenging topic of Alzheimer’s in the surrounding community. You may help secure program partners, schedule, prepare presentation and manage materials. This is a yearly commitment to attend up to 12 events. Contact Hannah at 216-391-9500 x 2122 or hdriscoll@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Classroom Aide-For this opportunity you would assist a college instructor in a classroom environment helping people from many cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Students range from young adults to seniors. The class objective is to provide ESL (English as a Second Language) and employment skills. You would sign in students, provide curriculum binders, keep attendance sheets and help with miscellaneous matters as needed. Located in the Detroit-Shoreway area the days/hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 2124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Special Events:
These are one-time opportunities. If your schedule hasn’t been able to accommodate on-going volunteer efforts, consider one or both of these!

Make the Holidays GLOW-Celebrate and make the season bright at the Cleveland Botanical Garden’s GLOW Festival in University Circle. Assistance is needed daily from November 23rd to January 4, 2020 with 4-hour shifts from 9:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers will assist with Children’s Activities, Guest Greeting, as a Garden Attendant or in the Gingerbread Workshop. Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Girl Power-Group Leaders are needed for a day of celebrating, educating and encouraging good health to young women on Saturday, December 7th 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Metro Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. Volunteers will usher a group of 20-25 girls between breakout sessions and events and can participate in group discussions if comfortable. Contact Nancy at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
Donations and Contributions
We acknowledge and thank all donors that provided a gift to our agency between April 27 and October 22, 2019

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Greater Content: 

Listed below are donors that have provided a gift to Greater Cleveland Volunteers in the past few months. We are very grateful for these contributions that allow us to support our current volunteers and engage more volunteers in service. Thank you for your support!

Our volunteers are teaching and mentoring youth and adults, helping hospital, nursing home and hospice patients, distributing food to those in need, helping with children’s educational programs at museums, assisting with a nonprofit’s office projects and much more.

Our donors are a vital piece of making this work happen!

Visit greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support to make your gift today.
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“It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.”

*Irish Proverb*

On behalf of our staff, board and committee members we send you warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season.
Discover the many opportunities from Encore Cleveland to those in or nearing retirement.

There are 11 nonprofit agencies offering these opportunities:

- Employment
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