Volunteer Spotlight: 
Doing Something Great!

Judy Solonche spent twenty years helping kids of all ages as a special education teacher for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. At the same time, she held a private tutoring job that lasted about five years into retirement. She has always helped people. She has always connected with people. But just how and why did Judy find herself volunteering at two partner agencies of Greater Cleveland Volunteers?

Looking to keep active, Judy went to a Greater Cleveland Volunteers informational meeting that offered up opportunities from 100+ nonprofit organizations. She met a representative of Hospice of the Western Reserve who asked what she wanted to do next. Judy said, “I want to do something as great as what I did before.”

She found the fulfillment by providing vigils through Hospice. When a family is exhausted and needs relief for their loved one, Hospice calls Judy the same day or one day in advance. Judy typically works two shifts a week and receives yearly training.

“Hospice is the best thing I do – it doesn’t go beyond presence, for the moment.” She remembers one woman in a dire state. Judy was determined to stay positive. “They can sense you are genuine in intent.”

In addition, Judy had also volunteered with the Shaker Library in the English as a Second Language program. There, she helped tutor people of all ages, backgrounds and occupations on important parts of communicating in English. They conducted conversational learning along with reading, writing, and homework. For fun, they brought in food from different nations. Through it all, she was able to see satisfying progress. The program meets Tuesday nights for an hour and a half.

“Where does real strength lie?” Judy contemplates, “It lies in spirituality; being able to wait, to have faith, and being able to just simply endure. I choose a fresh approach to life. I need to do something. I want to live my life!”

SCAM SQUAD:
Did you know that scams against seniors are on the rise, and that seniors lose twice as much money as others, when scammed?

There is a wealth of information available for everyone. 

Cuyahoga County Scam Squad is a local resource: 216-443-SCAM or at [https://consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/Scam-Squad.aspx](https://consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/Scam-Squad.aspx)

Sign up for their free email alerts [https://www.ftc.gov/](https://www.ftc.gov/)

Check out their “Pass it On” resource. You can order for free online at: [https://www.bulkorder.ftc.gov](https://www.bulkorder.ftc.gov)
Have 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.

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

We’re connected:
Meet one of our partner agencies

Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County (CFACC) is a nonprofit organization housed within the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court that is dedicated to improving the lives of local abused and neglected children currently in supervised custody and foster care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are assigned as partners to advocate for the best interests of the children in a family, whether one child or a sibling group.

CASAs are everyday citizens who are trained and appointed by the court to advocate for the safety and well-being of children. The CASA is responsible for investigation, facilitation, advocacy, and monitoring of the assigned child’s case and to represent the child’s best interests.

Article submitted by CASA

Making things happen:
Meet one of our Funders

The McGregor Foundation was established in 2002 as a private grant making foundation, evolved from a history of more than 125 years of providing distinguished care for seniors at the A. M. McGregor Home in East Cleveland and the Amasa Stone House in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland.

The Foundation provides funding to programs that: allow older adults to age in place; promote educational and training opportunities for professionals who care for older adults; provide health care to older adults; and promote engagement, enjoyment of art forms, and recreation.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has received financial support from the McGregor Foundation since 2004. The Foundation generously provides a grant to help us engage older adults in volunteering to help the community and to maintain/improve their own well-being. The Foundation also supports our annual fundraising event and volunteer celebration luncheon.

We appreciate the longstanding support that we receive from McGregor!
The Cleveland Pickle Fest

On Saturday, August 24th at Voinovich Park, North Coast Harbor more than 16,000 pickle-lovers and Greater Cleveland Volunteers supporters attended the inaugural Cleveland Pickle Fest.

The event featured 20 vendors, which included pickle companies, restaurants, food trucks and various pickle merchandise. Great Lakes Brewery had a limited supply of their pickle beer and other draft brews available.

A special thanks to our volunteers who assisted at the event.

Live music by Billy Likes Soda (L) and Monica Robins and the Ninja Cowboys played throughout the day.

Vendors
Backattack Snacks-Barrio-Beal’s Pickles-n-Pints
Bold Pickins-Cleveland Kraut-Cleveland Pickle
Conover Organic Farm-Hello Fresh-Jimmy Johns
Pittsburgh Pickle Company
Preggo Pickles LLC-Randy’s Pickles
Sauced Wood Fired Pizza-Rocket Fizz
Stray Dog Cart -The Crazy Cucumber
The Dogs Bag -The Ice Cream Kartel
The Lake Erie Soap Company
Wake Robin Fermented Foods

Sponsors
AARP Foundation
ArcelorMittal
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Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Arnoff LLP
Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland Pickle
Cohen & Company
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Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity
Great Lakes Brewing Co.
Hospice of the Western Reserve
Jimmy Johns
Joan Ibbett
Lubrizol
May Dugan Center
McGregor
Meaden & Moore
Meritech
Murtis Taylor Human Services System
Ogletree Deakins
Ulmer & Berne
Western Reserve Area on Aging
Window Depot
Margaret Wong & Associates, LLC.

Take a look at more photos at greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/events
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