

THE EXECUTIVE'S **Directions** A FRESH START



The start of a new year always inspires me. It is a time to create goals and start fresh with new projects. The new year brings fresh opportunities for Greater Cleveland Volunteers as well. Which nonprofit organizations will we add to our list of partner agencies this year? What new initiatives will we get involved with? How much will we accomplish on our strategic plan goals? How many new people will join our team of active volunteers that are serving the community?

Speaking of new...I am pleased to announce that we have some new staff. Sharla Harris joins us as Administrative Office Assistant, a new position created through our strategic plan to help our agency and staff work more effectively and efficiently. Michael Milanich joins us as a new AARP Experience Corps Site Coordinator to help with the expansion of this program into more Cleveland schools. Also, one of our current employees, Nadine Gamble, was promoted to Program Manager. We welcome Sharla and Mike and congratulate Nadine on her promotion.



We also welcome three new members to our Board of Directors: (left) Becky Carlino-Madigan, Development Officer at Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio; Joan Ibbett, Resource Nurse at Hospice of the Western Reserve; and Ann Eland, (right) retired teacher and educator from Cleveland Metropolitan Schools.



We are conducting our annual volunteer survey which is included in this newsletter. Please take a moment to complete and return. Survey results will help us improve our programming in 2015.

The staff looks forward to your continued support in the New Year and will be gearing up for more volunteer opportunities and partnerships.

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Help us update our records for 2015. If you moved or have changed any contact information, please call our office 216-391-9500 or email at contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.



Like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to receive current agency information and volunteer opportunities.

Shop Talk... *from the Development office*

We thank the following donors who generously made monetary gifts between October 25th and December 31st.

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New addition to staff



We welcome Sharla Harris as our new Administrative Office Assistant.

Sharla started with Greater Cleveland Volunteers in September 2014 through the AARP Senior Community Services Employment Program. Her duties included being the receptionist, assisting with office projects and new volunteer orientations.

When a new position was available, she applied, and officially joined the staff of Greater Cleveland Volunteers in January with the new title and expanded job duties. Her previous work experience is in customer service in retail and banking and she is a firm believer in volunteerism. She has volunteered with Junior Achievement, Leukemia Foundation, Diabetes Association, Special Olympics, and her church. Sharla loves animals and has a beautiful big Cane Corso dog which has special needs.

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE OUTREACH PROJECT

We embrace the opportunities to reach out to our partner agencies and assist them in their mission.

We held our annual *National Day of Service*, recognizing the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19th by conducting a non-perishable food and personal hygiene collection to benefit three of our partner agency food pantries.

Volunteers, Jerlynn Sapp, (left top) Vida Habjan, (left bottom) and Gail Schwarber, (right) helped us accept, sort and box the donations.



We also collect books for the students in the AARP Experience Corps literacy program and supplies for the mentors in the My Mentor My Friend lunchtime mentoring program. In addition, we seek in-kind donations for our Viva Volunteers auction and our annual volunteer recognition events.

We thank these in-kind donors for their support with the 2014 annual benefit:

Akron Rubber Ducks • Beck Center for the Arts • Becky Moldaver • Carol Durgan • Chagrin Valley Little Theatre • Cleveland Cavaliers • Cleveland International Film Festival • Cleveland Metroparks & Zoo • Cleveland Play House • Creekside Restaurant • Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad • Darlene Johnson-Cargill • Darlene Rota • Dianna Kall • Dorothy Hokenstad • DoubleTree by Hilton • Eaton Corporation • Ed Pavisich • Frances White Gale • Fred Astaire Dance Studio • Georgia Anetzberger, Ph.D. • Great Lakes Theater • Grovewood Tavern • Hibachi Japanese Steak House • Hilarities • Holden Arboretum • ideastream • Jeanette Moore • Jill Fowler • Joan Ibbett • John Reynolds • Joy & Richard Banish • Judy Simon • Kwik Car Wash • Lake Erie Monsters • Lee & Maria Parks • Mark Carden • Max & Erma's Restaurants • Michelle Sanson • Mohican Lodge & Conference Center • Nadine Gamble • Nestle • Ohio Lottery • Paladar Rum Kitchen • Playhouse Square Foundation • Punderson Manor Lodge • Dr. Robert & Brenda Kunkel • Robert Erzen • Rosemary Rehner • Ruth Ann Peake • Schreibman's Jewelers • Sharon Herene • Sky Zone • Stephanie FallCreek, DSW • Thomas & Laura Barnard • West Park Massotherapy • WKYC-TV



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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January is National Mentoring Awareness Month

Two Mentors at Mound Elementary School (CMSD) personally donated new gloves, hats and scarves to benefit students in need. Ms. Oberth, (left) teacher and Ms. Velma McNeil, principal happily accepted the donations.



If you have a lunchtime available once-a-week, contact Carol, program coordinator at 216-391-9500 x 125 or chasek@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org to learn how you can become a mentor to a student in the Cleveland schools.

Training and ongoing support is provided.

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