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A Decade of FUN! Volunteer spotlight



Volunteer Barbara Tate beams when we asked about her volunteer experiences, "I've met about a million different people during my years with Greater Cleveland Volunteers. People of all different backgrounds, races and personalities. I know that without volunteering I wouldn't have had the

chance to interact with so many wonderful people."

This is true because Barbara is a member of Team Events. These are volunteer opportunities for one-time or one specific event in Cuyahoga County. With so many activities going on our volunteers do meet, greet, laugh, smile and help the masses.

Before retiring, Barbara was a computer operator for Republic Steel/ LTV Steel. When faced with more free time, she made the decision in advance to seek ways to fill the void with something enjoyable. She discovered Greater Cleveland Volunteers and is celebrating her 10-year anniversary.

"To me volunteering is paying it forward. When I volunteer I see, feel, hear and know that I'm helping others. I see the smiles on their faces, I hear their gratitude for whatever assistance I have given. I find all of this is so fulfilling. I enjoy volunteering, I think it's my calling in life."

One of Barbara's favorite assignments is at medical facilities. "When I'm able to sit with a patient and assist them with paperwork and listen to their questions, I know I'm making a big difference in their life and allowing the medical staff to move on to more urgent needs." she explains.

Not only does Barbara volunteer at events, she also serves on a Greater Cleveland Volunteers committee- Volunteer Recognition. "If anyone knows how to show appreciation to our volunteers, it's Barbara. She attends the meetings, offers ideas for the events and what we can do to make it different every year," Joy Banish, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Executive Director. "When we have our volunteers serve on our various committees we are able to gain a new perspective. We appreciate Barbara adding this to her volunteer assignments."



**HELP US KEEP OUR DATA BASE CURRENT: If you have changed your mailing, email address and/or phone number, please submit to us. This helps ensure that you will receive current news, information and updates throughout the year.
Call 216-391-9500 or email contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.**

Cleaning up for Spring!

Joy Banish, Executive Director

Even though we didn't have a very tough winter this year, I am glad to welcome spring. I like being outside and seeing all of the leaves starting to grow on the trees, the brown grass turning green, and hearing the birds singing again. Springtime also brings my favorite event on the Greater Cleveland Volunteers calendar- our annual volunteer recognition celebration. I look forward to seeing many of our wonderful volunteers at one of the recognition events on April 12th.

Spring is also the start of our busy "Team Events" season when many agencies contact us for help with their events. If you have an interest in volunteering for one-time or short-term projects, the schedule of opportunities is on our website. Even if you aren't interested in the Team Events schedule, I encourage you to take a look at our website- it's been updated in an effort to make it easier to find information:

greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



New design to our website.

Meals on Wheels

Feeding in-bound neighbors



Greater Cleveland Volunteers serves seven **Meals On Wheels** programs, on both the east and west sides of Cuyahoga County.

Meals are delivered Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Usually, teams of two people deliver a specific route – a Driver, who waits in the car, and a Runner/Jumper/Hopper who must be able to navigate apartment stairs, porch steps, etc. to actually deliver each meal and check-in on the clients.

The current Greater Cleveland Volunteers Meals On Wheels programs are: Rocky River Meals on Wheels, Senior Citizen Resources, West Park Meals on Wheels and West Rose-Mt Carmel Senior Center on the west side. On the east side: East End Neighborhood House, Hillcrest Meals on Wheels and Meals on Wheels of Shaker Heights/Beachwood.

Contact Sue 216-391-9500 x 120
ssmith@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Cleveland Kids' Book Bank

Helping students read on spring break

Cleveland Kids' Book Bank understands the importance of children having reading material handy at school and at home. That's why they donated 1,600+ books to us.

"Our donations were low this year and we were not able to give each of our students in the program a book to read over spring break. We reached out to Cleveland Kids' Book Bank and they gladly got the books sorted and ready for our pick-up," explains Ross Jones, AARP Foundation Experience Corps Program Manager.

Leonard Young, AARP Foundation Experience Corps Site Coordinator is pictured with Ross.

If you have an interest in tutoring, call Ross at 216-391-9500 x 119 or
rjones@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



Annual collection helps others

In February we held our annual non-perishable food and personal hygiene collection to benefit three of our partner agencies and their clients.



David picked up the items for the Centers for Families and Children. He was happy to deliver to the Community Corner.



Brian stopped for a photo before loading up the donations. He transported the items for Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center. They told us, "we are appreciative of the food products that are not usually donated to our clients."



John is gathering the items in boxes for The Lakewood Community Services Center (LCSC). They were thankful for being one of the recipients this year. "The items will go directly to our clients immediately. Personal hygiene items are most needed and will be most appreciated by our clients." Jane Leschnik, Volunteer Coordinator at LCSC.

We have various volunteer opportunities at these agencies and many others. The food pantries and other hunger agencies need help with inventory, distribution, greeting clients, assisting with paperwork and gathering supplies. There are one-time and on-going opportunities. Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Our Thanks...

New this year was a partnership with 107.3 The WAVE. They provided on-air promotion and served as a collection site. "This support proved an asset to the collection and messaging about year-round needs in Cuyahoga County." Joy Banish, Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Volunteers.



Sally Spitz, Director-Local Sales, 107.3 The WAVE, explains, "we are thrilled to have partnered with Greater Cleveland Volunteers. As the ONLY locally-owned and operated radio station in Northeast Ohio, we understand the importance of giving back to the communities in which we live, work and play."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wade Park School promotes literacy **AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutors help all year**

Our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program was recognized at the Literacy Month Kick-off Pep Rally in March, at Wade Park School, Cleveland Schools.



Ross Jones (L) Greater Cleveland Volunteers, AARP Foundation Experience Corps Program Manager with T.J.Dow, Ward 7 Cleveland Councilman.