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Volunteer Spotlight

Having fun and keeping it positive

Tierra S. Biggers' occupation is a Manager of the Collinwood Recreation Center for the City of Cleveland. With four years invested, she already does much for the youth of Cleveland in that role, but through the Greater Cleveland Volunteers, she's added another facet to her life that will certainly prove to be an asset.

In 2015 a Greater Cleveland Volunteers staff member was at an event that was held at the Collinwood Recreation Center. Tierra asked about My Mentor My Friend which matches caring adults, one on one, in a lunchtime mentoring program with students in four elementary schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Interested individuals attend a day-long, detailed training on how to interact with the children. The training provides a useful manual, coaching techniques and suggestions for the lunchtime activities. Then they meet with their mentee and begin the lunchtime visits.

Tierra is matched with a 5th grade student who comes from a large family. Tierra's mentoring provides additional support of one on one time with an adult that she may lack at school or at home.

They enjoy doing puzzles, playing cards and board games and sometimes just relax and talk. While Tierra and her mentee are together, the child is the focal point she explains, "I work on creating a balance, reinforcing discipline and direction while providing fun and laughter. I allow her to be her while instilling optimism. I don't want anyone to tear her spirit down."

"We (in general) have a tendency to disconnect with one another. It has become more convenient not to be as communicative as we should. Tierra is happy to report that she and her mentee have "great communication" and she noticed this year that she is smiling more.

If you're motivated by Tierra's story and experiences and want more information, contact Carol Hasek, My Mentor My Friend program coordinator, at 216-391-9500 x 125 or chasek@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



Tierra and her mentee have fun playing cards.



Volunteer Receives Award

Congratulations to our volunteer, Robert L. Clark, Sr. for receiving an award from the Corporation of National & Community Service's Ohio office for his significant service to the community.

Mr. Clark, age 84, has been serving in our RSVP program for 15 years with St. Augustine Health Care Ministries. He began as a Friendly Visitor in 2006 and was in that role until 2010 when he switched over to serve as a Transporter. This entails transporting wheelchair bound clients to and from appointments throughout the building and visiting with them while they are waiting. His lifetime hours to December 2016 are 13,975! Thank you Bob for your service.

Making A Difference

Take a look inside Greater Cleveland Volunteers with the Executive Director

At a recent Encore Cleveland event, I had the opportunity to hear Patricia Kaplan speak. Patricia is in her Encore career working at a local nonprofit organization. She explained how volunteering and working in the social service sector brings meaning to her life. She shared a quote that has stuck with me, “When you make a difference in someone’s life, you make a difference in your own life”. We often ask our volunteers why they serve and hear all sorts of wonderful responses such as, “I have been blessed in my life and want to give back” or “Someone helped me and I want to repay that gift”. These sentiments share the theme of helping others. This is the primary reason people volunteer. But what often goes unspoken is how good helping someone else makes you feel.

A lot of research has been conducted about how volunteering improves the mental and physical health of the person that volunteers- and it does! In this new year as we all try to set new goals, think about doing something for yourself- something that makes you feel good inside- volunteer to help someone. We have hundreds of opportunities throughout the community just waiting for you. To learn more call us at 216-391-9500 or look at our website greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Joy Banish
jbansh@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



Visit our website often for updates

We're Connected

The Maple Heights Senior Center



We have a new partner agency– the Maple Heights Senior Center. They provide a variety of social, educational and recreational services and programs to meet the wide ranging needs of older adults in the Maple Heights area.

Services include congregate meals and a meal delivery program for homebound seniors.

Their volunteer needs include drivers and delivery persons (also called “jumpers”) who use their own vehicles to help distribute food to specific client’s homes. The delivery days and times are flexible.

The Center at 15901 Libby Road in Maple Heights, is housed in a stately brick building in front of the Maple Heights Library.

The Maple Heights Senior Center is open to serve seniors on weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you’d like to volunteer at the Center, contact Cecille Harris at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust

15 years of support

We are most grateful for the financial support it receives from the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust.

The Trust, and its predecessor, the 1525 Foundation, have been providing support of our work for more than 15 years.

The Trust focuses on supporting education, environment and social services organizations and each year provides gifts to approximately 50 local organizations.

The Trust’s namesake is Kent Hale Smith, the co-founder of the Lubrizol Corporation. Mr. Smith and his wife Thelma founded the trust in 1971 and believed in helping people and organizations to help themselves. That philosophy matches what Greater Cleveland Volunteers does- engaging people to help others in the community and thereby helping themselves.

For ways on how you can support and/or promote our mission contact our Development office at 216-391-9500 x 113.

Welcome New Staff Member



Sandy Frazer has understood the value of volunteers throughout her professional career. In Maryland she worked as a volunteer coordinator for hospices and primarily health-related non-profit organizations. While serving as the assistant director of the Montgomery County Volunteer Center in Maryland, she also served on the board of the professional volunteer coordinator's association, and as a CASA volunteer. Later, as a volunteer coordinator at Hospice Care of Washington D.C., she was invited to participate on the advisory board for the RSVP program.

Sandy has worked for a long time as a caregiver and welcomes this opportunity as volunteer coordinator in her native Cleveland at our agency.

Her hobbies include working as a volunteer assisting children and youth with the Bahá'í Faith communities, cooperative games, vegetarian cooking, beginner's knitting, and Qigong meditation.

She resides with husband, fiction writer Ron, and rescued Chihuahua mix, Bitsy. Welcome to the team, Sandy!

Annual Board Meeting

Our board held their annual meeting in December. We thank our partner agency, The International Women's Air & Space Museum at Burke Lakefront Airport for hosting. We thank and appreciate all the individuals that volunteer their time and talent to serve on our board.



Front Row: (L-R) Joan Ibbett, Becky Carlino-Madigan, Ann Eland, Dr. Georgia Anetzberger, Darlene Johnson-Cargill, Dorothy Hokenstad.

Back Row: Mike Smith, Bob Erzen, Lee Parks, Stanley Wertheim, Jeanne Madison, Kevin Boyce, Bill Leahy, Rosemary Rehner, Tom Barnard, Calvin Leonard, Yelena Boxer, Becky Moldaver, Gary Bombei, John A. Reynolds, Ann Zellmer, Shawn McDermott, Dr. Bette Bonder.



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SAVE THE DATE

It's almost time for our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 Holiday Inn-Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Road, Independence 44131
Luncheon 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Invitations will mailed in March to volunteers that reported
volunteer hours in 2016.

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