



July, August
Vol. XLV, No.4

A Musical Volunteer Assignment Margaret Burik– piano player



Margaret Burik has been volunteering as a pianist for 11 years with Greater Cleveland Volunteers at the Cuyahoga County Adult Activity Center in Rocky River, a program through Cuyahoga County Board of Development Disabilities.

A graduate of Baldwin-Wallace University, she is a private piano teacher by profession, continuing to give lessons out of her home. She's volunteered her skills and played for her son's middle school. When her mother was in a nursing home, she discovered that when she played the piano informally there, the residents would perk up. People would say,

"Honey, don't stop." The nursing home "came alive" when she played.



At the Activities Center, she arrives shortly after 1 p.m., sets up chairs for the choir, and then provides the accompaniment for about 45 minutes. The rehearsals prepare the choir for performances at local nursing homes, Beck Center for the Arts, and other special performances throughout the region. Margaret says they have a tremendous following.

She is treated like a celebrity by staff, and choir members always compliment her. Participants feel better when they return to work. "It's indirect therapy," she says.

The piano is how Margaret expresses herself and how she delivers that measure of therapy to the choir. "Music is a language unto itself," she says, "you can put it into sound, into instruments."

Music has been played throughout Margaret's life, through good and bad times. It is a constant in an otherwise chaotic world. Margaret has discovered that sharing her talent through music is not only good for her, but good for those for whom she plays.

You can provide your TIME, RESOURCES and SUPPORT in many ways to help others.

- ◆ Like & Follow Greater Cleveland Volunteers on social media. Facebook. Twitter @CLEvolunteers
- ◆ Donate new office supplies to Greater Cleveland Volunteers
- ◆ Provide a donation to honor someone in your life greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support

Call us for details at 216-391-9500 x 113 or email dgrassi@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

A Call To Action with IMPORTANT ADVOCACY MESSAGE page 2

Volunteer Funding Advocacy Update



The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages and supports citizens in service to communities across our country. CNCS and all of its programs have been proposed for elimination in the 2018 federal budget. CNCS programs include: RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, AmeriCorps and VISTA.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has been operating one of these national service programs, the RSVP program for 45 years. The program currently has 425 volunteers, age 55+, providing needed services to 88 nonprofit organizations throughout Cuyahoga County. Our RSVP volunteers provided 56,000 hours of service to the community in 2016. Their service is valued at \$1.3 million.

RSVP volunteers provide meals to those in need at local food pantries, deliver meals to homebound seniors, tutor children and adults, help the unemployed find jobs, assist refugees in resettling, serve the homeless, provide health education, mentor prisoners, assist with disasters, provide services to older adults and much more.

*I ask you to **contact your U.S. Senators** to make them aware of the importance of these national service programs, and the tremendous "return on investment" that they generate in our community, and in communities across the country. If you are an RSVP volunteer (age 55+ serving in one of the areas mentioned above), tell them how important your volunteer service is to you and the people you help in our community. If you are not an RSVP volunteer, we ask for your support of your fellow volunteers that are part of national service programs.*

If you live in Ohio, call or write to Senator Rob Portman and Senator Sherrod Brown and ask them to: Retain current funding levels for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) programs, including the RSVP program.

Remind them that national service programs are a cost-effective investment and benefit:

- ◆ Nonprofit organizations that receive assistance from national service volunteers
- ◆ Clients at these organizations that receive services from caring volunteers
- ◆ Volunteers that have meaningful opportunities to use their time, talent, and skills

Senator Rob Portman:

Phone: Washington, D.C. office: 202-224-3353 or Cleveland office: 216-522-7095

Mailing Address: 1240 East 9th St, Room 3061, Cleveland, OH 44199

Senator Sherrod Brown:

Phone: Washington, D.C. office: 202-224-2315 or Cleveland office: 216- 522-7272

Mailing Address: 801 West Superior Ave., Suite 1400, Cleveland, OH 44113

You can also contact **your U.S. Representative.**

To find their name and contact information go to this website and enter your home zip code: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Thank you for your support!

Joy Banish

Executive Director

Greater Cleveland Volunteers





Volunteer Opportunities

Discovering how you can help in Cuyahoga County

Vol. XLV No. 4

Job Coach-Help reintegrate a formerly incarcerated person to society again. Assist in writing resumes and conducting mock interviews. Training is provided at a downtown location. Parking is free. Flexible hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Make a difference to a refugee child-Help tutor a child in their home. Curriculum varies from child to child based upon current knowledge of basic reading and writing skills. All training is provided. Locations are on the Westside of Cleveland with a concentration in Lakewood and Ohio City.
Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Fresh Produce Distribution-Volunteers are needed to help sort, bag and distribute fresh produce to area residents in need. Various locations and times.
Contact Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124 or jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Meals on Wheels-Drivers and runners are needed during the week to deliver meals to seniors and homebound residents. Current driver's license and reliable car needed. Runner must be able to climb stairs. East and West side locations. Clean background check is required.
Contact Jan 216-391-9500 x 124 or by email jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Help a Child Succeed -Assist a child with their studies and help bring them up to their proper grade level. Reading Buddies, Reading Mentors, and Math and Reading Tutors will be needed when school begins in the fall. East and West side opportunities are available during the school day.
Contact Kirsten at 216-391-9500 x 114 or contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Gift Shop/Snack Shop Attendant-Salesperson is requested for a busy gift shop or a snack shop at an east side nursing home. Flexible days and hours, Monday through Friday.
Contact Kirsten at 216-391-9500 x 114 or contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Enjoy Live Theatre?-Be an usher or lobby assistant at a variety of venues in Cleveland. Ushers greet guests, scan tickets and help with wheelchairs. Lobby assistants will stay in lobby and assist guests at interactive iPad stations and photo booths. Volunteers will have an opportunity to see a performance either during or prior to their shift. Parking is free.
Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Teach Music or Theater in the Fall- It would be great to have music teachers to provide after school instruction in vocal music, instrumental music and drama. Saturday theater assistants needed to help teachers during the theater classes.
Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Social Justice Speakers and Coordinators-Engage teens and preteens in interactive discussions centered around topics pertaining to self-confidence and values in 6th-8th grade classrooms in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Volunteer speaker coordinators are also needed. Training is provided. A 2-hour commitment is required.
Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Help in a nonprofit office- Nonprofit organizations in Cuyahoga County need office assistants to help with filing, copying, scanning and organizing also with other paperwork and office duties. Flexible schedule but weekly commitment required. Free parking.
Contact Cecille at 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.



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REFER A FRIEND

Help us **spread the word** about the need for volunteers in Cuyahoga County. We are specifically seeking additional volunteers, age 50+ to serve in key impact areas.

Please consider talking to a few friends about your volunteering experiences and if they have an interest, contact our office at 216-391-9500 or email contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or submit your name, address and phone number along with the names you are submitting and mail to our office: 4415 Euclid Avenue # 200, Cleveland, OH 44103.

By doing so, you'll be entered in a quarterly drawing for \$25.00. All entries must be **received by September 29, 2017** to be eligible for this drawing. Our staff will follow up with the referred individual/s. You may enter as often as you like throughout the year.

On-Line Capabilities: New volunteers can enroll on-line and current members can update their contact information easily at: <http://www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/volunteer>.

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