



May June 2017
Vol. XLV No.3

Providing Comforting Support

Kathy believes in "Giving Back."



Someone once asked Kathy Miller why she would volunteer rather than get paid for a job. To this, she confides, "They just don't get it. My parents told me 'always give back'." Volunteering is part of Kathy's passion and she fosters it for the good of our community.

Kathy is a nurse who spent 28 years with the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), a nonprofit partner agency of Greater Cleveland Volunteers that provides home health care in Ohio. She began her career with the hospice program there, worked in pediatric care, adult care and then finished with clinical development. She was asked to continue with VNA when she retired --this time as a volunteer. She went back to her roots as a Bereavement Caller with Hospice Services.



Under VNA Hospice Services, bereavement calling support is offered for thirteen months. For a half-day each Wednesday, Kathy goes the VNA office to call family, friends, neighbors or significant others who have been affected by a loved one's passing.

"If a person needs to reminisce and talk, they know there is a friendly, trusting voice they can share with," she says. Kathy never sees her clients but the anonymity can work for both sides of the connection. "Some people may be resistant to sharing at first, so I try to find one thing to which we both can relate. I focus on something I can pull out from them, and that's where I start the trust." She adds, "Once you've established a relationship, that resistance all goes away. The relationships just draw you in."

To volunteer for VNA Hospice Services, you do not have to be a nurse or even a people-person. There are a variety of ways to help without direct contact to the patients or families; sewing blankets and hospital gowns, writing cards or offering to do administrative work.

"If you want to fill your time," Kathy concludes, "this is an absolutely rewarding endeavor."

Contact Lynette for volunteer opportunities details 216-391-9500 x 123 or Imaistros@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Welcome to new staff member



Introducing Dominick Grassi, the new Development Director for Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Dominick is a graduate of Kent State University and has several years of experience working within the nonprofit community of Cleveland.

Prior to joining Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Dominick served as Development Manager at a Cleveland nonprofit for nearly 7 years. In this role, he was responsible for all fundraising activities including; grant writing, special event planning and maintaining relationships with individual, foundation and corporate donors.

Dominick grew up on the west side of Cleveland and is currently a resident of Lakewood. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his friends and family, rooting for the Cavs, Indians, and yes, even the Browns, staying active and checking out all of the new and exciting things going on and around Cleveland. Welcome Dominick!

Slacktivism?

Joy Banish, Executive Director

Recently a local television station contacted Greater Cleveland Volunteers to ask if we've been impacted by "slacktivism".

I had to look up that term as it was unfamiliar to me. I found that it is a combination of the words "slacker" and "activism" and refers to people that engage in activism via the internet and social media rather than volunteering in person to help a cause. Sharing thoughts or signing an on-line petition for or against a cause can make a difference, but there is still a need for people to give their time to volunteer in person to help. I do not know if slacktivism is impacting volunteering but volunteer numbers across the U.S. have been trending down for the last several years.

The news story is on our website, Home page, left column.

<http://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/cleveland-metro/does-your-facebook-endorsement-make-a-difference-slacktivism-in-greater-cleveland>

In Northeast Ohio only 29.5% of residents volunteer. We need to increase that number! We are seeing increased demands in the community to help children, adults and families who need support.



Please help spread the word about the need for more people to give of their time to help. We have ongoing assignments, short-term or special events (see article on page 2).

Interested volunteers can call or email our office or enroll directly on our website: greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

A Fun Evening Out

How about a fun evening showcasing your artistic skills? Don't worry—guided instruction and all the necessary tools makes it easy plus Greater Cleveland Volunteers receives a portion of each registration fee.



Wine & Canvas has selected our agency as their charity of choice on **Friday, June 23rd at their Strongsville location featuring the painting below.** You can register on their website:

<http://www.wineandcanvas.com/wine-and-canvas-calendar-cleveland-oh.html>



Special Events

We offer both on-going (regular) and short-term/one-time volunteer opportunities which are classified as Special Events.

These are generally one or two day activities that volunteers will assist in a variety of ways; registration, document distribution, serving refreshments, taking tickets, fresh produce distribution and much more. We have these listed on our website

http://www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/whats_new/calendar.php



We invite you to check out this section often to discover what's available.

Spotlight on a Partner Agency



University Hospitals

University Hospitals' Humble Beginnings 150 Years of Caring for Our Community

In 1866, civic leaders and parishioners of the First Presbyterian Church (Old Stone Church) believed city residents needed access to medical care. Addressing this civic need, they build a hospital that was housed in a small frame dwelling on Cleveland's Wilson Street, naming it Wilson Street Hospital. Its missions was simple: to provide care and medical treatment for sick and disabled people. From these humble beginnings came one of American's pre-eminent health system – University Hospitals.

In 1920 the hospital established the Volunteer Services Department to formally engage members of the community to help in achieving its mission. 97 years strong, the Volunteer Services Department oversees 1,800 volunteers annually at its University Circle campus.

During its first 150 years, UH has become globally recognized for providing the highest-quality care, pioneering novel treatments and clinical research discoveries, and training the next generation of health care professionals. While its medical advancements touch lives worldwide, UH remains true to its roots as Northeast Ohio's community health care provider.



If volunteering in a medical facility holds an interest with you, contact Cecille 216-391-9500 x 122 or charris@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org. She will review your interests and availability to match with assignments.

New On-Line Communications

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is pleased to announce new on-line communications for new and existing volunteers with software from VSys.

We now offer online enrollment for new volunteers and to our current volunteers, the capability to update their information (contact information, volunteer interests, driver's license, emergency contact, etc.) directly via a secured section on our website, greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

All current volunteers will receive a letter from our agency assigning their unique user ID, password and details.

In the future, volunteers will also be able to sign-up online for special event opportunities.

We are looking forward to the features of this new volunteer database.

Thanking our Donors

Stories from partner agencies and volunteers

Greater Cleveland Volunteers recently held a Donor Appreciation Celebration to say thank you to our donors for their support. The session included hearing testimonials from two of our partner agencies and two volunteers who each relayed a story about their role in helping the community.



Holly Roe, Founder & Executive Director of the LD Edge Network, a nonprofit agency for adults with learning disabilities in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood in Cleveland stated, "I have found volunteer support to be a critical need allowing my agency to provide services



Amy Scanlon, an AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutor volunteer, relayed wonderful stories about her sessions with K-3rd grade students and the progress she witnesses every time she's tutoring. "The smiles on their faces when they can identify a word we've been practicing is an incredible feeling!"



"Volunteers assisting before, during and after our many events has proven the events to be successful and enjoyed by the attendees." Jordan Davis, House Manager Maltz Performing Arts Center explained the volunteer effect at his agency.



Randy Helbert explained why he gives his time to help others. "Volunteering fills my days both as a mentor with Refugee Response and helping in their community garden. We all exchange stories and learn from each other."

Donations and Contributions

We acknowledge and thank all of our donors that provided a gift to our agency from January 1 to May 5, 2017.

AARP Foundation Experience Corps
American Cancer Society
ArcelorMittal
Georgia Anetzberger, Ph.D.
Arthritis Foundation of Northeast Ohio
Thomas Barnard
The BCJC Group at Robert W. Baird & Co.
Gary Bombei
Bette Bonder
Boomer & Beyond Magazine
Yelena Boxer
Boys Hope Girls Hope
Broadview Heights Senior Center
Helen Carbon
Mark Carden
Becky Carlino-Madigan
Center for Community Solutions
Cleveland Botanical Garden
Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland Hopkins International Airport
Cleveland Playhouse
Cleveland Teachers Union
Cuyahoga Community College
Dominion East Ohio Gas
Carol A. Durgan
Ann Eland
Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice (EYEJ)
Clarence Engel
Euclid Senior Programs
Bob Erzen
Falling Water Healthcare Center
Fedor Manor
Friendly 50 Plus Club
Friends Of The Greenhouse
Janika Garner
Great Lakes Science Center
Vida Habjan
Harvard Business School Club of NE Ohio
Darlene Hodges
Dorothy Hokenstad
Himan Brown Charitable Trust

Holiday Inn-Cleveland South Independence
Hospice of the Western Reserve
Hummingbird Project
Joan A. Ibbett
International Women's Air & Space Museum
Dianna M. Kall
LD Edge Network
Bill Leahy
Calvin Leonard
Lubrizol Foundation
Thomas A. MacColl
Mary "Nikki" Matala
Shawn McDermott
McGregor
MetroHealth System
Becky Moldaver
Pearl Moser
Murtis H. Taylor Human Services System
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
Patrick M. O'Brien
Open Heart Magic
Playhouse Square
John Reynolds
Ronald McDonald House
Samuel Rosner
Jennie Shantery
Rochelle A. Solomon
The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio
Twinsburg Seniors
University Hospitals Health System
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging
Charlene Williams
Ann Zellmer



Volunteers from Westlake Meals on Wheels prepare box lunches and dinners for clients.

Connecting with Greater Cleveland Volunteers

On behalf of the Greater Cleveland Volunteers Board of Directors, staff and 100+ partner agencies we serve, we acknowledge the individual donors, local businesses and foundations who have pledged their support to our agency this year.

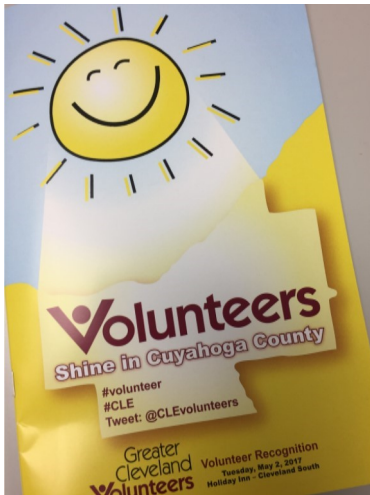
Your generosity will continue to support our ability to recruit and train volunteers, provide assistance to those in need and to enhance programming.

We hope you will consider making a gift today in the enclosed remittance envelope or with a credit card on our website,

greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support.

Volunteers Shine In Cuyahoga County

Indeed, they do. We enjoyed a wonderful Volunteer Recognition Celebration in May with more than 375 volunteers, partner agencies, sponsors and special guests laughing, having fun and enjoying the commonality of the volunteer impact in Cuyahoga County.



This year we collected new socks for our partner agencies with clients in need. More than 750 pairs were donated at the event. What fantastic support our attendees have for the community! Everyone enjoyed fun table conversations and were ready for the door prizes!



The Volunteer Recognition Committee: (L-R)
 Front Row: Susan Smith, Barbara Tate, Dianna Kall
 Back Row: Mary "Nikki" Matala, Calvin Leonard, Shawn McDermott
 Not pictured: Ann Zellmer

- We thank our event sponsors:**
- Corporation for National and Community Service
 - Center for Community Solutions
 - Dominion
 - University Hospitals
 - The BCJC Group at Robert W. Baird & Co.
 - Hospice of the Western Reserve

Elva Fosh (L) and Susan Wagner, both AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutors, had a smashing time at the recognition!



Limelight Award Recipients

We invite our partner agencies to submit a name of a volunteer who deserves a little time in the “limelight” for their efforts. The awards are presented at our annual volunteer recognition. The following were recognized for; starting a new project, managing a program, mentoring new volunteers, implementing software, data management, providing positive guidance as a mentor, smiling and greeting guests, offering caring support for someone, making phone calls for the agency, volunteering for more than 50 years!, packing meals to be delivered to homebound residents, creating an exhibit, tutoring a student, maintaining a garden and more.



Congratulations for your time and effort helping others in Cuyahoga County.

Jack Abbott	Great Lakes Science Center
Louise Acciaioli	Arthritis Foundation, Northeastern Ohio
Donald Arthur	Cleveland Hopkins - Department of Port Control
Mary Ann Basista	St. Augustine Health Campus
Gene Beer	Judson at University Circle
Helen Beer	Judson at University Circle
Rachael Brownlie	American Cancer Society
Lucy Anne Christopher	Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland
Peter Daly	Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice (EYEJ)
Rod Erskine	St. Vincent DePaul at Community Corner
Chris Gee	Greater Cleveland Volunteers – My Mentor My Friend
Vida Habjan	Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Diane J. Hall	Greater Cleveland Volunteers – AARP Foundation Experience Corps
Joyce Hall	Hospice of the Western Reserve
Randy Helbert	The Refugee Response
Gail Jackson	International Women’s Air & Space Museum
Mary Ellen Klein	Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center
Thomas MacColl	The LD Edge Network
Lynette Maistros	West Rose - Mt. Carmel
Erika McCreery	Senior Citizen Resources
Kathy Miller	Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio
Carolyn Oakes	University Hospitals
Barbara Oliver	East End Neighborhood House
Sam Rosner	Hillcrest Meals on Wheels
Jennie Shantery	The MetroHealth System- Old Brooklyn
Beverly Zebold	Euclid Senior Programs



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SAVE THE DATE



**Friday, October 20, 2017
6:30 to 10:00 p.m.**

**Sterle's Country House
1401 East 55th Street
Cleveland 44103**

Our annual benefit will feature appetizers, dinner,
the popular silent auction and
presentation of the
David F. Leahy Volunteer Excellence and Community Partner Awards.

Event and Sponsorship details at
greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/supportus
Or: Dominick at 216-391-9500 x 113
Tickets \$125.00 each