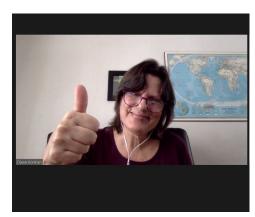




July/August 2021 Vol. XLIX No.3

VIRTUAL TUTORING Thumbs up



Diane Korman became interested in child literacy as she witnessed her dyslexic brother get effective help when he was young. "I saw what he went through," Diane reflects, "and know that if kids don't get the proper attention, it can be disastrous."

After retiring from a career as a hospice nurse, Diane remembered her earlier passion and started to examine a new life path related to child literacy. She soon heard about the literacy tutoring program, AARP Foundation Experience Corps managed by Greater Cleveland Volunteers and enrolled.

Before the pandemic, the volunteers would gather in the school classroom twice a week, helping students for half-hour tutoring sessions under the supervision of an Experience Corps representative. Diane says, "The beauty is that the kids get individual attention geared to how they are feeling that day. You are focused on where they are as an individual. There is no judgment or expectation except that they show up and participate. The more energy we put into it, the more responsive they are." The student and tutor can work at a slow pace and repeat passages often read one word at a time – if that's what's needed to improve literacy.

Things changed as the virus left schools unattended. Tutors were asked to meet with students remotely, on-camera via Zoom. Diane saw the adjustment as an advantage. "It's quiet with none of the distractions of the shared schoolroom. They can really focus. They build on their experience and get more of a sense of on how to learn, think, read and remember."

Diane says rewards to tutoring are irreplaceable, "I look forward to being there every session. What an honor! It adds so much meaning to life and I hope I can keep going for a long time."

Tutor recruiting has begun for this fall. Contact Charlotte Petrie at 216-391-9500 x 2119 or cpetrie@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Did you know that scams are on the rise?

There is a wealth of information available for everyone.

Cuyahoga County Scam Squad is a local resource: 216-443-SCAM or at https://consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/Scam-Squad.aspx

Sign up for their free email alerts https://www.ftc.gov/

Check out their "Pass it On" resource. You can order for free online at: https://www.bulkorder.ftc.gov

New Funder Helping Our Agency

Literacy Tutoring Support



We are happy to welcome **The Kaulig Foundation** as a new funding partner for our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program.

The Kaulig family is very involved in helping improve our community and to further this mission, Matt and Lisa Kaulig established the Kaulig Foundation in 2018. The Foundation's mission is to support organizations in Northeast Ohio that promote the educational, physical, and emotional well-being of children and their families.

We thank the Kaulig Family for their support of our efforts to engage volunteers in helping children learn to read.

Staff Member Speaks at National Conference



Charlotte Petrie, AARP Foundation Experience Corps program manager, spoke at their national conference about how our agency has been working with AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers to enhance their virtual tutoring to students.

The conference, held virtually this year, addressed the many challenges, whether it was how the pandemic affected the ability to tutor or national unrest impacting the students. The conference looked at how we can continue to address the challenges of today while preparing for the future with both our tutors and volunteers in mind.



Charlotte spoke during the Network Innovations Session along with three other Experience Corps programs from across the country. She shared Cleveland's experience incorporating AmeriCorps VISTA members into our program and how their presence helped us meet the moment.

AmeriCorps VISTA members are a year-long, project-based volunteer brought on to help nonprofit and public agencies. Through the addition of VISTA members in Cleveland, we were able to build our tech capacity to better serve our tutors and their connection with their students.

New Part-Time employment opportunity

We have a new position with our agency in the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program as a Training Coordinator. The individual is responsible for training volunteer tutors in the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program, including literacy and technology needs.

Details on our website, home page. greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Direct link: https://tinyurl.com/umxfta7j



Use our unique link every time you shop on Amazon Smile and they donate a % of your qualifying purchases to our agency. http://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1356768.

Volunteer Opportunities

Want to learn more about a volunteer opportunity? Have questions? Contact Nancy Dzurnak at 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

EVENTS:

Cleveland Pickle Fest-Volunteers are needed to assist with the 5K race, 1 mile walk, the vendor area, set-up, parking and clean-up. Volunteer shifts 7:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. See the insert in the newsletter for more fun details.

Annual Meeting-Ushers are sought to assist at the Cleveland Foundation's annual meeting on Tuesday, August 24th 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Agora Ballroom on Euclid Avenue. You would help with check-in or assist guests to their seats. You're invited to stay for the presentation.

Food Distribution-Please consider helping on Tuesdays and Thursdays now until October. We have multiple locations and times.

ON-GOING:

Children need your guidance-Volunteers are needed to advocate for children who have been neglected and abused. Individuals are trained and appointed by the court to watch for the safety and well-being of children. This is a meaningful, ongoing opportunity helping to make a positive difference in a child's life.

Dining Assistance-Older Adult in-person programs are getting back to full service and help is needed to assist with serving meals, pouring coffee and offering an extra set of helping hands to and from the dining room. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Mentor Small Business Owners-Offer your skills, wisdom and experiences to new small business owners by assisting to develop long-term business plans, solve problems and examine business efficiency.

Fun Summer Learning-Assist 1-8th grade participants with summer learning projects to enrich and engage eager students. There are 2-shifts Monday through Thursday.

Deliver Essential Items to Older Adults-As an Errand Delivery Driver, you will deliver personal care items, cleaning supplies and essential items to homebound older adults throughout Cleveland. There are typically 5-10 deliveries per route and you are asked to use your own vehicle. There is a flexible schedule.

Tech Buddy-You would provide digital mentorship and tech support for program participants starting and/or completing a career readiness workshop. Tech support ranges from setting up an email, submitting assignments via Google Classroom to troubleshooting connectivity and more. Flexible volunteer schedule.

Help with Blood Shortage-Please consider offering your time to volunteer at donor sites to; greet, escort or guide donors through the donation process, set-up and maintain cleanliness in the Reception and Hospitality areas.

Therapy Pets-If you and your pet are therapy-certified, please consider offering visits and comfort to patient and families in a hospice environment.

If your nonprofit site has not resumed volunteering and you're able to offer time, call our office to discover other volunteer opportunities that can accommodate your schedule and preferred locations.



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A colorful **thank you** to those who went to Dean's Greenhouse in Westlake in May to support our fundraiser, and to their helpful staff and management for conducting the fundraiser the entire month!

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