



March/April 2021
Vol. XLIX No. 1

Multi-talented Bob Norton

#WeAreHere



"I don't have time to retire," says Certified Public Accountant Bob Norton. However, a gradual pull-back from work has allowed him to enable his penchant for volunteering – instilled in him by his mother. She was active in a Meals On Wheels program, volunteered at the library, and regularly read to first graders.

In 1999 he enrolled with Greater Cleveland Volunteers to use his financial expertise as the Treasurer for the Heights Emergency Food Center. Among the 40+ volunteers, Bob reports to the Center president, handles deposits, pays bills, provides financial statements and analyzes operations.

Now with 21 years of experience at the Center, Bob has advanced many procedures, including new forms for financial statements and block grant proposals. He volunteers as needed, up to ten hours per month. While the pandemic keeps Bob from going to "the office," he remains active through Zoom meetings. He reminds everyone that the Food Center is still supplying meals, but now pre-packaged and with all the safeguards.

If you think handling money is Bob's only talent, think again! Bob is kept busy with 11 children (7 adopted), 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He is an accomplished dancer, having performed at nursing homes for more than 25 years with three great partners (including his sister). He's even turned his garage into a dance studio! In addition to entertaining with a partner, he conducts "Chair Dancing / Exercise" programs by himself at nursing homes.

He's been a Red Coat volunteer at Playhouse Square since 1999 and will continue once they re-open. Bob urges others to volunteer when they can. He sums up his philosophy with, "I think you live longer when you volunteer!"

This year we will hold our volunteer recognition event virtually on
Thursday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

During the event, we will present the Frances White Gale Award for *Educational Excellence* and the David F. Leahy Award for *Volunteer Excellence* to two of our outstanding volunteers. After the awards, we will play on-line bingo. The event has a disco theme so feel free to put on your disco clothes and join us!

Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. Participation in the recognition is free, but there is a small charge to play bingo. Reservations are required and can be made on our website greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Making A Difference

Our Board of Directors keeping us involved

We are pleased to welcome four new members to our Board of Directors this year, all of which have prior connections to Greater Cleveland Volunteers. They each bring valuable talents and skills to our board.



(Left to Right)

Maria Foschia, Chief Operating Officer at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, one of Greater Cleveland Volunteers' partner agencies, has been affiliated with our agency and staff in a variety of ways for more than 20 years.

Tracey Mason, Chief Administrator, Cuyahoga County Division of Senior & Adult Services. Greater Cleveland Volunteers has collaborated with the County on several initiatives and Tracey has previously worked at some of our partner agencies. Her connection to our agency also extends more than 20 years.

Mary McNamara, Director, City of Cleveland Department of Aging, another one of our partner agencies. Mary has collaborated with our agency since the start of her career and has a passion for serving older adults and volunteerism.

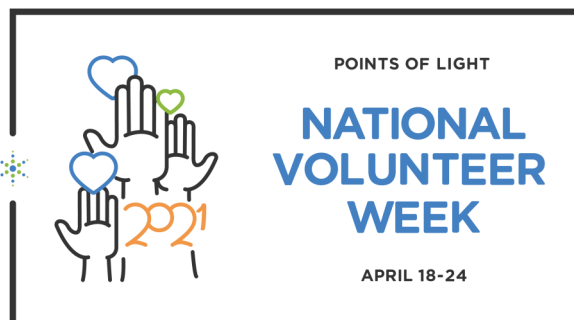
Brendan Walsh, Assistant Finance Director, Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Ten years ago, Brendan worked at a local accounting firm and was part of the team that conducted our annual financial audit. We are pleased to have him as part of our team now, sharing his knowledge of finance and audit.

We thank these dedicated board members, as well as all of our other board members, for their committed service to Greater Cleveland Volunteers!

Current Volunteer Information Session

You might not be back volunteering at your agency quite yet, but you'd still like to "go out and do something." Find out which agencies have created new volunteering opportunities in-person or virtually, on our Zoom session **Wednesday, April 14th at 12:00 p.m.**

https://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/information_session_calendar.php



Thank you for:

- ◇ Staying connected with Greater Cleveland Volunteers
- ◇ Volunteering when you felt safe and comfortable
- ◇ Knowing your efforts are needed and appreciated
- ◇ Remaining positive during current times

"Goodness is the only investment that never fails."
Henry David Thoreau

Introducing a New Program CHAT PALS

Social connection is one of the fundamental factors effecting health and wellbeing. Time and time again studies reveal how a lack of social interaction and loneliness can increase health risks for society, and more significantly affect older adults.

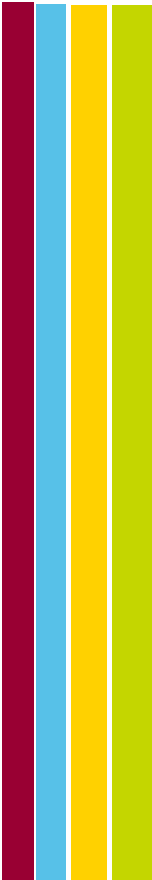
According to the Center for Disease Control, Social Isolation is a major health risk for older adults, leading to mental and physical conditions. More than one-third of adults aged 45 and older feel lonely, and nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are considered socially isolated. As our community continues to battle the COVID-19 Pandemic, we see now, more than ever, that there is a growing need to combat these issues.



Greater Cleveland Volunteers will be launching Chat Pals, a telephone-based or video-based (Facetime or Zoom) program designed to be a support system, which hopes to provide emotional support and companionship to people in our community. Participants will receive a call from a trained, background-checked volunteer on a weekly basis. The goal is to match volunteers with a participant based on like-minded interests and experiences, so that a friendship can be formed remotely.

The program will be available for participants aged 55+ and volunteers 18+. If want to learn more about volunteering or being matched with a volunteer caller, or know someone who may benefit from this program, contact Kirsten Riley 216-391-9500 x 2124 or kriley@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteer Guardians-Some people don't have anyone to help make important life decisions. A Volunteer Guardian is a trained, caring advocate and substitute decision maker. The person's support team of professionals and direct-care providers serve as partners to ensure the person reaches their goals. Meet with individual at least six times a year.

Take out trash-Ensure safety of a senior homeowner by offering a helping hand to take their garbage bags/cans in and out every other week in the communities of Lyndhurst, South Euclid, Highland Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village or Richmond Heights.

ESL Virtual Tutors-Create a welcoming environment of English Language intermediate to advanced learners from all over the world every Tuesday 7:00-- 8:30 p.m. at Shaker Heights Public Library. Lesson plans provided. Experience appreciated, but not required. Familiarity and comfortable conducting sessions via Zoom.

Delivering a Meal, Delivering a Smile-Volunteers are needed to assist the Dietary Team at a Westlake Hospice facility. Tasks include prepping, traying, serving and cleaning up. Three shifts daily. To maintain social distancing, only one volunteer per shift.

Community Disaster Relief-Help your community when a home fire or other disaster occurs. Virtual disaster response has been implemented. If a virtual response is not possible, procedures will require maintaining social distancing and provide materials to the client without direct personal contact. One 24 on-call hours per month commitment.

For further details or questions contact: Nancy Dzurank, 216-391-9500 x 2123 or ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

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AGENCY UPDATES

Details included on the enclosed inserts.

Volunteer Recognition and Bingo
virtually on Thursday, April 22, 2021

Dean's Greenhouse Flower Sale

Every day in May your purchases add up to a donation they will make to our agency. Please share the flyer with family and friends and redeem with your purchases.



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