



January/April 2022

Happy Birthday to YOU! Fun phone call



Patricia Field hails from New York City, where she was employed as a statistician for Macy's Herald Square. In 1990 she lost her sight. Meanwhile, her son found work in Cleveland and she followed him here.

Patricia wanted to do something during the day and spoke to a friend in her apartment building. She told her about Greater Cleveland Volunteers *Birthday Caller* program. She connected and has been active since 2005.

As a volunteer, she is given a list of Greater Cleveland Volunteer members with birthdays, and calls them to wish them well. Typically she calls 3 or 4 people a day each weekday. How does she do it? "I am blind, but I know where everything is," she says. Greater Cleveland Volunteers sends her an audio cassette listing the people and numbers to be called. "I enjoy talking to the people," says Patricia. "A lot are happy that someone calls. I can tell if they want to talk. Some are very lonely and enjoy the conversations."

Patricia likes to engage in conversations, so that skill is helpful when dealing with people. "One lady was confined to her house and we talked for 15 minutes. No one else had called her for her birthday. People are happy to get birthday wishes. Some forget about their loved ones."

Patricia will never let her lack of sight define her. "We all have obstacles," she explains. "It's all in how you cope. Learn to live with it-I have no intensions of being depressed." Indeed, Patricia proves that every day. She has been golfing with a coach since the mid '90s and she keeps active with the Cleveland Sight Center..

Interested in making someone's day—become a Birthday Caller. Contact Nancy Dzurnak at ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2123.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Updating your Volunteer Status:

Thank you to the members who have already updated your volunteer status with our agency in early 2022!

Having up-to-date information on our members is important to our agency, our programs and our partners. Let us know if you:

- have been volunteering, and where
- if you would like to start volunteering
- if you would like to be removed from our active volunteer list.

Please update your information by March 31st at: <https://forms.gle/HUa1A1FJJxjdqpJt6> or email contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or call us at 216-391-9500 x 2114.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Making A Difference

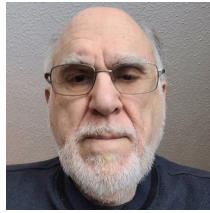
Our Board of Directors keeping us involved

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is pleased to announce the election of four new board members. The following were recently elected and bring great skills, experience and connections to our Board of Directors. We welcome:



Orion H. Bell IV

Benjamin Rose
Institute on Aging



Neil A. Dick

Dick Group Consultants



Brad Hutchison

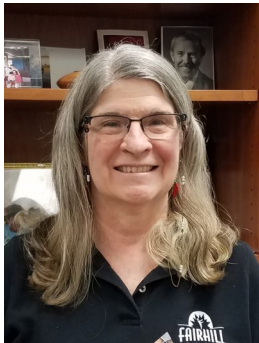
Cleveland
Rape Crisis Center



Shawn McDermott

UPS

Also, we congratulate two of our long-serving board members for their election as Lifetime Directors: Stephanie FallCreek, DSW and Bob Erzen.



Stephanie has served on the Greater Cleveland Volunteers board for more than 20 years and has provided leadership in numerous ways.

Bob has been on the board for 16 years and has also served in many leadership positions. We thank both of them for their dedication and service to our agency.

All of our board members volunteer their time to aid our organization in many ways and are vital to helping Greater Cleveland Volunteers be successful. We are grateful to all of them.



Help Address the Digital Divide:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the digital divide in our community, especially among older adults. The digital divide is **the gap between those who have access to technology, the internet and digital literacy training and those who do not**. It affects all generations, in both rural and urban communities.

The staff and partners of Greater Cleveland Volunteers spent the last six months reviewing what is available in the community and asking: *what can we do to address this community need?*

Therefore, we have decided to launch a training program focusing on video conferencing platforms such as Zoom and others.

We hope to launch this program in the spring of 2022. Currently, we are identifying **volunteers** who could assist in program design and implementation, creating the curriculum, running or assisting with the virtual training classes and offering other support to this pilot program.

If this is something that would be of interest to you or you are interested in learning more, please email contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

If you are interested in learning how to use Zoom or other virtual conferencing platforms, please complete this online inquiry form: <https://forms.gle/9Gsp2pUDvDAmcBQN8>

Contact Nakeva Williams, nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2116

Events

Fight For Air Climb-Volunteers are needed for a nonprofit's fundraising event on **Sunday, May 15, 2022** from 7a.m.-1p.m. at Progressive Field. Help with t-shirt distribution, registration, water distribution or as a way finder/cheerleader. Beverages and snacks provided, reduced parking fee. Volunteer t-shirt provided, to be worn with clean no holed jeans/pants, rubber soled shoes and weather appropriate gear.

Spring Food Distribution-Volunteers can help throughout Cuyahoga County to assist with food and produce distributions this Spring. You would receive the delivery, sort and safely distribute to the public following COVID-19 protocols.

Ongoing

Be a Grand Friend-Do you miss the days when your kids were little? Help is needed at a Child Enrichment Center to interact with children six weeks to toddlers. Read, sing and dance with toddlers or rock and feed babies. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Covid-19 vaccine required.

Tax Season Help-Welcome clients to tax sites and work directly with taxpayers to help prepare and e-file tax returns throughout Cuyahoga County. No experience necessary, training is free and virtual. Some volunteer opportunities are also virtual.

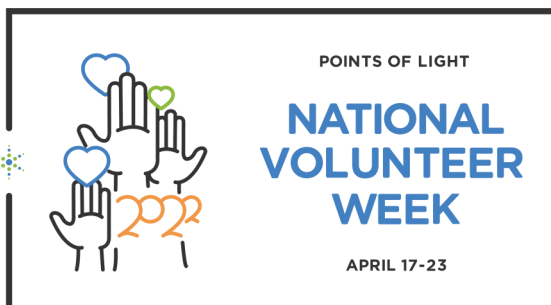
Friendly Voice-Call a homebound older adult 1-2 times per week to provide a friendly voice and check-in to make sure they are healthy and have everything they need. Minimum 30 minutes a week.

2 emails per month, 3 meetings per year, 2 lives changed-Offer your time by guiding a first-generation student through their college career. This virtual well-supported mentoring program is proven to increase retention, persistence and graduation of student participants. You schedule to communicate and meet with a mentee.

Bingo-Help with this favorite activity at an older adult facility on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 1-3 p.m. in Euclid. Volunteers call bingo numbers, verify a good bingo and assist with setting/cleaning up.

On with the Show-The curtains are going up and ushers are needed once again to assist theater goers. Positions include greeters, ticket scanners, wheelchair escorts and general event-related positions. Walking up steps and standing are requirements of the job.

Visit our website for more volunteer opportunities greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



Thank you for:

- ◆ Sharing smiles to others
- ◆ Keeping volunteer work on your schedule
- ◆ Looking for new ways to help in our communities
- ◆ Being a friend of Greater Cleveland Volunteers

"There are unrecognized heroes among our ordinary neighbors." - - Harold W. Bernard, novelist

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

4415 Euclid Ave. Suite 200
Cleveland, OH 44103-3758

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Dean's Greenhouse Fundraiser May 1st to June 15th

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has teamed up with Dean's Greenhouse again this year for a springtime fundraiser. Brighten up your yard with beautiful flowers, hanging baskets, herbs, vegetables, gardening supplies and a whole lot more.

Dean's Greenhouse

3984 Porter Rd, Westlake, OH 44145 For hours:

deansgreenhouse.com

At check-out tell the cashier you're shopping to benefit Greater Cleveland Volunteers. No flyer is necessary. We receive 30% donation of your sales from May 1 - June 15, 2022.

Questions: Joy 216-391-9500 x 2112

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Editor: dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org
216-391-9500 x 2115
greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

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