



## HAVING FUN CHATTING! Volunteering in the program



At her core, Gail Arnoff has always been a mentor – whether through teaching or volunteering. She’s not about to stop helping others in the community. Whether teaching at Cleveland Municipal School District, Case Western Reserve University, or at John Carroll University - it’s all a matter of connecting with those who need guidance.

One year ago she found the Chat Pals program description online and hoped it might be a good fit for her.

A relatively new program, Chat Pals is available free for participants age 55+. It is a telephone and video-based (Zoom) that matches people with shared backgrounds, interests and experiences so that friendships can be formed.

For Gail, getting involved was as simple as contacting Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Although she and her Pal are different, they have the “commonality” of being Jewish. They now talk regularly about things friends usually talk about – weather, health, current events and more.

The relationship is kept simple with only a weekly call requirement. It does not involve planning or preparation. Gail and her Pal chat Sundays at noon. “This is a really nice relationship,” says Gail, “I always enjoy the chat.”

As with many people enrolled with Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Gail works with more than just one charity. She’s volunteered with College Now Cleveland (a partner nonprofit with Greater Cleveland Volunteers). She mentors first family members that are attending college. Add published writer and marathoner to her resume, and she has plenty to talk about with her Chat Pal.

Gail tells us her husband summarizes it best, “Gail never met a mentoring program she didn’t like.” Greater Cleveland Volunteers and Chat Pals are so glad that is true!

If you’d like to volunteer or become a program participant in Chat Pals, contact Kirsten Riley 216-391-9500 x 2124 or [kriley@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:kriley@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org)

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### FUNDER NEWS:



The Helen C. Cole Charitable Trust Fund of the Cleveland Foundation is one of Greater Cleveland Volunteer’s longest standing and most generous funders. The Cole Trust has supported our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program for more than 20 years.

The Trust’s advisor has visited the program in the schools and dedicated many hours to learning more about the program and the impact it is making on the students served.

Recent grants helped us create a virtual tutoring option when schools were closed during the pandemic. This program thrives due to their continued support.

# AARP FOUNDATION EXPERIENCE CORPS

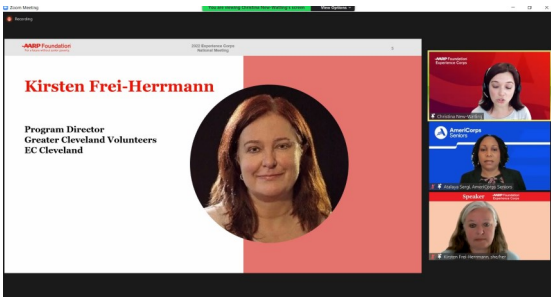
## Updates

**AARP Foundation Experience Corps** We have two hybrid employment positions in our AARP Foundation Experience Corps program. The team is looking for two motivated and kind people to join us as program coordinators.

Program coordinators work with our AARP Foundation Experience Corps volunteers and assist with the planning and implementation of the Experience Corps literacy tutoring program for students in second and third grade.

You can read the full job description on our website. To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to Charlotte Petrie at [cpetrie@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:cpetrie@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).

## National Meeting



During the AARP Foundation national meeting, Kirsten Frei-Herrmann, program director, Greater Cleveland Volunteers and Atalaya Sergi, AmeriCorps Seniors director, co-presented information and trends they both are witnessing about volunteers.

Frei-Herrmann noted that the current trends in volunteerism indicate a desire for more episodic opportunities as well as more flexible arrangements, and provided tips on how nonprofits can create these opportunities.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has found success by offering event (one-day) volunteer opportunities. You can view them here: <https://tinyurl.com/584sedcy>

## Hofbrauhaus Showcases Nonprofit Agencies



Joy Banish, executive director, tapped the keg

In July Greater Cleveland Volunteers was selected as the nonprofit agency to feature with a keg tapping ceremony at Hofbrauhaus in Cleveland.

We appreciate this connection to mingle with restaurant patrons and talk about the agency and volunteer opportunities.

Our next event: Cleveland Pickle Fest®. See the insert for details.

*Having fun with our supporters at the event.*



Contact Nakeva Williams, [nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) or 216-391-9500 x 2116

## EVENTS

**Volunteer at Cleveland Pickle Fest®** -Come Celebrate Cleveland, Pickles and Volunteerism while offering a helping hand at the Cleveland Pickle Fest® on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to benefit Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Join the team at Mall B, downtown Cleveland assisting with admissions, at a beverage tent, as a festival assistant or with set up-clean up. Shifts are available 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Snacks, beverages, T-shirt, and a dilly hat provided, along with our heartfelt thanks. Register here: <https://clevelandpicklefest.com/volunteer/>

**Fill the Truck Event**-Join the team and assist at a Blanket and Toiletry Drive on **Saturday, August 6th** in the Kinsman neighborhood in Cleveland. Shifts available 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Volunteers will greet, direct the traffic flow and load donations on the truck. Dress for the weather. A t-shirt, parking, meal and beverage are provided for volunteers.

**Empowerment Pop-Ups**-Spend a few hours empowering people with disabilities at a Pop-Up event sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities throughout Cuyahoga County in August. Volunteers will check-in, assist with games, crafts and sports stations as well as and technology assistant. Free parking, beverages, and snacks provided.

**Ready, Set, Pedal**- Fun summer event in the Tremont Area! The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleveland Big Wheel Relay, **Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>** 12:30-4:30 p.m. will benefit the Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center. Help with raffle and t-shirt sales, time trials and/or pit crew or children's activities. Beverages, free parking, and t-shirt included for volunteers. Comfortable shoes and clothes are suggested.

## ONGOING

**On with the Show**-The curtains are up in the theatres and ushers are a necessity for the show to go on. Positions include greeters, ticket scanners, wheelchair escorts and general event related positions. Walking up steps and standing are also requirements of the position.

**Deliver a Difference**- Meals on Wheels is a great way to make a significant impact in a short amount of time. By delivering meals you bring nutritious food and a friendly visit to an older adult and people with disabilities right in your community. Just your smile and meal can make someone's day. Delivery drivers and/or cooks are needed 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday in Cuyahoga County.

**Surrounding a Family with Love**- Provide fostering families with community and holistic support. Volunteers seek to build relationships with a family by spending quality time with the family, playing games, sharing a meal and being intentional. They can also create and deliver personal care packages based on current practical needs. Once a month visit with a year's commitment.

**Book Delivery**- Transport, once per month, donated books from the Solon Senior Center to the Kids' Book Bank Warehouse in Cleveland on your own schedule. Reliable and able to lift 20 pounds, a valid driver's license and insurance is required.

**Wheelchair Assistance**- Assisting an older adult by transporting them from their room to an activity in a skilled nursing facility can make a world of difference. Shifts available seven days a week in Cuyahoga County.

**We have more in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities at:**  
[greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/volunteer](https://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/volunteer).

# Greater Cleveland Volunteers

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## **DIGITAL DIVIDE: FREE how-to virtual conferencing platform classes**

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.

Let Greater Cleveland Volunteers help you to learn the skills to participate in these activities virtually! We welcome back Kim Gassner-Harkness as the Project Coordinator. **FREE** online classes starting every month.

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> or reach Kim at [kgassner@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:kgassner@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).

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