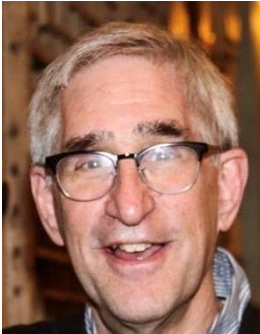




Reading Volunteer and Author



Bill Franklin may be new to tutoring with the AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy program, but that does not make him any less of an advocate, “I’m a freshman, but I’m very enthusiastic about it!”

This University Hospitals pharmacist was looking for a way to extend himself into the community after retirement. Coincidentally, he saw an ad in Cleveland Jewish News in search of a tutor with Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

Bill lauds the guidance of Experience Corps. “We get a lot of support,” he says. “We have online sessions to improve our skills and open dialog with fellow tutors.”

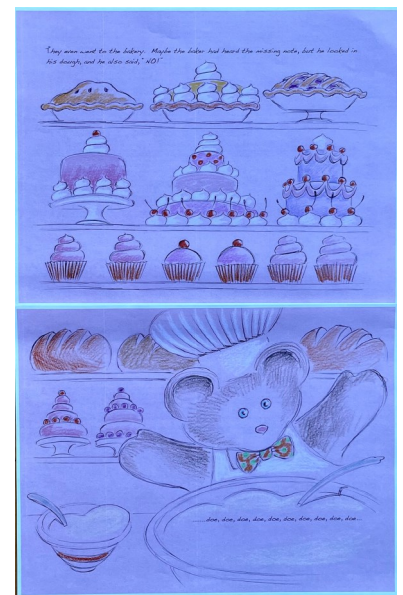
Bill participates in various workshops to hone his talents.

When not tutoring, Bill and his spouse (prominent Cleveland artist Thomas Roesse) have written and illustrated several books for his grandchildren who live in Seattle and Johannesburg. They wanted to give the books that they would remember. Not yet published, the stories target the grandchildren at different ages, who are currently 8, 7, 6, and 4.

The first book was geared to Bill’s first grandchildren on their first birthdays. The *Missing Note in the Land of Merritune* involves a wayward musical note.

Skye, named for Bill’s granddaughter, is illustrated with depictions of the skies.

Thanks Bill for your passion of writing and reading and serving as an AARP Foundation Experience Corps volunteer. If interested contact Charlotte Petrie at cpetrie@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.



Images drawn on construction paper



We are very excited to receive funding from the Ohio Children’s Foundation in Columbus, OH in support of our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program.

This Foundation, established in 1990, provides grants to improve the lives of children throughout Ohio and the country.

Our spring fundraiser is at **Dean’s Greenhouse until June 15th**.
The enclosed flyer has more information. We appreciate your support.

MID-YEAR REVIEW

Joy Banish, Executive Director

Greater Cleveland Volunteers operations have undergone some significant changes in the past two years. The pandemic forced us to start working from home in the spring of 2020. This led us to update our technology and provide each employee with the tools they needed to work from home. As the pandemic dragged on, we realized that we could work just as effectively from our homes as in the office.

In 2021 we formed a task force of board members and staff to work on a plan regarding the future of our work environment. After much research, we decided to **continue as a primarily remote workplace**. We shifted to digital record-keeping and spent countless hours going through paper files and scanning them into the computer. We made a decision to downsize our office space which will reduce our expenses. Our address remains the same, 4415 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200, Cleveland, 44103.

Our staff goes to the office as needed, but otherwise works remotely. We are available to anyone via email, or the same phone numbers we have had for years and are happy to meet in person or via video-conferencing. Please contact us if you need anything.



We are excited to return to our large pre-pandemic fundraiser, **Cleveland Pickle Fest®**. The past two years we held a scaled back version of the event, but this year we are planning a big festival featuring all things pickle! There will be live music, lots of food, pickle beer, children's activities, a pickle eating contest and much more. The event will be held on **Saturday, September 17th from 12-7 p.m.** at Mall B in downtown Cleveland.

We are looking for sponsors and vendors and need many volunteers to help that day. Please see the enclosed flyer and our clevelandpicklefest.com website for more information. Hope to see you at the Cleveland Pickle Fest® this year!

Sending Sunshine to Children



Greater Cleveland Volunteers was pleased to partner with AmeriCorps Seniors and Project Sunshine for a fun, play activity kit assembly day.

Project Sunshine's mission is to bring joy and play to pediatric patients through its network of partner organizations.

Our volunteers were able to pack "basketball play kits" so that 300 children would be able to enjoy shooting some hoops in their hospital room.

Each kit included developmentally specific activities as well as a blank journal for creative expressions, note taking and thoughts of the day.

Joan Nethery (above), Hillary Sullivan (L) and Sandy Sylvester



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

EVENTS

Walk to Remember-Join the team and help celebrate the memory of a loved one at the Hospice of the Western Reserve Walk to Remember at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on **Sunday, June 12th from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.** Shifts are 7:30-10 a.m. or 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Help as a greeter or with registration. Ability to stand for extended periods of time, bend, stretch, distribute items to participants. Free parking, snacks, bottled water and t-shirt provided. Comfortable shoes suggested and weather appropriate attire.

Help Children to Carry On-Share your time at a day camp for children ages 6-12, designed to give children the opportunity to share their grief experiences in fun and creative ways. The camp is being held the **week of July 11-15th** in Independence. Help as a group facilitator, meal/kitchen helper or field trip chaperone. Onboarding and training required prior to camp.

Food Distributions-Assist making meals a healthier experience. Help with sorting, packaging, and distributing food at a drive-thru distribution. 9 locations/ 11 distributions each month throughout Cuyahoga County. Volunteer once, volunteer often.

ONGOING

Be a Buddy-Two people are matched to create a one-to-one friendship between adults with and without intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community. Opportunities for friendship and inclusion are especially important to adults with IDD, who have limited options to stay involved as they age. Get together once a month; enjoy a dinner, go to a movie, or spend time together on a walk, just like any other friendship.

Help Locate Housing-Assist clients who have housing vouchers in finding an apartment to call home. Having an openness to learning of housing needs and resources of clients who are temporarily unhoused, an ability to interact respectfully with shelter clients and to interact professionally with prospective landlords, makes you a perfect match for this position. This is a weekday position 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Commissary Sales- Substitute sales staff is requested to keep a commissary open weekdays 2:45-4:45 p.m. at an older adult living facility in University Circle. Assist with sales, inventory and forwarding customer requests to the shop manager. Comfortable handling cash and making change, makes you ready for this opportunity.

Spruce up the Yard-Get some exercise while completing yard care projects for older adults in the communities of Cleveland Heights, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights, Solon and South Euclid. Projects include general yard cleanup, trimming bushes, weeding, branch removal, mulch, planting and leaf raking. Individual volunteers welcome and can accommodate groups up to 15. Weekdays and Saturdays in 2 hour shifts.

Community Representative-Assist a cancer support mission at health fairs, corporate wellness events and other community events. Talk and inform the public about the importance of this mission and how they can volunteer in support of those on the cancer journey. Most events are 2-4 hours, once a month.

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

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 will be starting this 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.

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