



November/December 2022
Vol. L No.5

Our fundraiser, the Cleveland Pickle Fest® involved lots of volunteers and we are so thankful for all the help we received at this outdoor event. We caught up with two of them and discovered why they enjoy event volunteering.



CASSIDY VENEMA

Cassidy smiles and says she volunteers “because I care about my community. I’ve recently moved here, and volunteering is an unimposing way to meet people. Cleveland is a great place.”

Cassidy is an AmeriCorps member serving at City Year. Through them she is learning more about the neighborhoods and what unique traits they offer.

She discovered our Event volunteering opportunities and she’s glad they fit in her availability on evenings and weekends. She reviews the opportunities at <https://tinyurl.com/7knu99ez>, then she decides where she can help.



DARCY GUO

Darcy, a resident physician at a Cleveland hospital, grew up in the church and I learned early on how important it is to give back to the community, and by doing so, he finds that you’re actually helping yourself. Darcy feels that “volunteering is good for your mind and soul.”

He knows that volunteering provides exercise whether you’re inside or outside. “Remaining active is important for everyone, no matter their age.”



GOLDEN MOMENT

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary we will share stories and reflective thoughts from our friends.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to tutor through the AARP Foundation Experience Corps Program. There is great happiness in helping the students to read better. However my most enjoyable moments were as a member of the Greater Cleveland Volunteers Volunteer Recognition committee.

At our meetings we discussed all the details from receiving door prizes to set-up and planning the program. We held the first luncheons in downtown Cleveland then moved to other facilities to accommodate all the attendees, we enjoyed it all.

What a joy to be a part of an event that brought fun to so many volunteers.

Calvin Leonard
Board member and Volunteer

2022 IN REVIEW

Joy Banish, Executive Director

2022 has been another year of lots of change and turmoil in our world. Sometimes all of the bad things happening feel overwhelming to me. I can't do anything about the wars in the world, the nasty politics or horrible mass shootings in our country, or the hateful things that people post on social media, but I can do something to help in our community and so can you.

There are many people that need a helping hand in Cuyahoga County and many really good organizations trying to provide this help. By volunteering, we can all help one or more of our neighbors. Whether it is delivering meals to someone who can't get out to get their own food, providing boxes of food to families who need some extra to make it through the month, tutoring a student who has fallen behind in school, helping someone who is looking for work, or being a companion to an older adult living alone – we can make a difference and make life better for those in our community.

To all of our wonderful, dedicated volunteers that are making a difference each and every day, THANK YOU! **We appreciate your efforts very much!**

If you are not currently volunteering, I hope you will make volunteering a part of your life in the new year. Greater Cleveland Volunteers will help find an opportunity that is of interest to you and fits your availability. Please contact Nakeva at: 216-391-9500 x 2116 or nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Thank you and I wish you a happy holiday season!



We are happy to be partnering with the Hunger Network on their all-important mission of **No one** goes hungry, **No food** goes to waste. Join the mission as a Food Rescue Hero and rescue food that would otherwise go to waste and a delivery to an organization that will help with hunger relief. Rescues are available daily throughout the area. Their food pantry, MidTown Market, can use volunteers to assist customers with shopping or restocking shelves. Want to learn more? Contact Nakeva at 216-391-9500 x 2116 or nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

AARP Foundation® And we're off! The 25th year of AARP Foundation Experience Corps program officially started for this school year in six different schools across Cleveland and Euclid.

Experience Corps volunteers work one-on-one with students, helping them with reading and supporting them with social-emotional learning. As a long standing program, we have a mix of volunteers who are in their first school as well as tenured volunteers who have given thousands of hours working with their students over the years -sometimes decades! If you are interested in helping kids with reading, there is still time to work with students during this school year. Join us in making a difference.

Contact us at contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or fill out the volunteer interest form and we'll contact you with the next steps: tinyurl.com/ECCleveland

VOLUNTEER RECEIVES AWARD

Patricia Field

The Center for Community Solutions held their Celebration of Human Services including their annual Most Treasured Volunteer (MTV) Award featuring individuals who shine above and beyond in their role at a nonprofit agency. We are honored to have Patricia Field stand with the other recipients.

Patricia has been volunteering with us for 14 years as a Birthday Caller. She calls our volunteers monthly sending them good wishes from our agency. She accomplishes this despite being visually challenged. Another of our volunteers will audio record the name, birthdate and phone number for Patricia to make the personalized calls.

We thank the Center for Community Solutions for showcasing people making an impact in Cuyahoga County nonprofit agencies.



Photos left to right: Patricia escorted by her nephew. Mayor Justin Bibb offering his congratulations to Patricia. Two of our board members flanked Patricia, Brad Hutchison and Becky Carlino.

Since May 2022 Greater Cleveland Volunteers has been addressing the Digital Divide, helping volunteers gain or improve their Zoom skills! These personalized sessions, led by Kim Gassner-Harkness, have provided support to help people stay connected to family, friends and organizations.

Linda L, a recent graduate of the sessions, shared that *“the sessions were extremely helpful and that she now has the skills needed to comfortably participate in online, virtual classes or sessions.”* She hopes to use her skills to participate in her church’s Zoom meetings.

We can help you as well. Complete our interest form at: <https://forms.gle/CtD5QC8S6kAiExS27> .



We are also happy to share with you information about Digital C, a local nonprofit organization that is addressing the Digital Divide as well.

DigitalC was founded in Cleveland in 2015 and works to bridge the digital divide in our community. The organization focuses on two key areas of digital equity: Connectivity and digital skills training.

Through their wireless internet service provider, EmpowerCLE+, they offer reliable, high-speed internet at \$18/month. There are no contracts, background checks or equipment fees.

For information about their computer skills for older adults, call 216-777-3859 or info@digitalc.org or www.digitalc.org



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SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, April 21, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd. North
Independence 44131
Details announced in February

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