



September/October 2022
Vol. L No.4

LOTS TO CELEBRATE!

Thank you to the community for their tremendous support of our recent Cleveland Pickle Fest® event held on September 17th. We had a beautiful day and a large crowd that enjoyed the music, pickle eating contest, and all kinds of food including many varieties of pickles and pickled food. We could not have held a successful event without the support of our sponsors and donors, all of the vendors, and our terrific staff, board members and volunteers that helped in every way. Thank you!

We have even more to celebrate as October marks our organization's **50th anniversary**. We started in 1972 as the Cleveland chapter of the national RSVP program for older adults and over the decades we have grown and added programs and services and started working with younger volunteers. Today we have volunteers age 18 and older and serve all of Cuyahoga County.

We have partnered with hundreds of local nonprofit organizations and more than 27,700 volunteers—all of whom have dedicated their time and talents to help our community. We are in the midst of strategic planning for the future so we will be able to continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our community and the interests of those who want to volunteer. To help us achieve our goals, please consider a financial donation to Greater Cleveland Volunteers. See the insert in this issue for more information.

Thank you to everyone who supports Greater Cleveland Volunteers!
Joy Banish
Executive Director

AARP Foundation Experience Corps The Experience Corps team is excited to celebrate our 25th anniversary this school year. While the program hasn't always been called Experience Corps, it was first called Seniors for Schools, the impact in the community has always been felt.

Over the last 25 years we've engaged with hundreds of volunteers who collectively have helped thousands of students with their reading throughout Cleveland and Euclid. For perspective, the students who were served in the first year of the program are now in their early thirties. We are proud to have several volunteers who have been with our program since the first few years, including one volunteer who started with us for the inaugural school year.

If you would like to celebrate our milestone anniversary, consider applying to join the Experience Corps volunteers. The application can be found on our website. You are also welcome to fill out our interest form and someone from our team will contact you directly.

Application link: <https://greaterclevols.vsyslive.com/pages/app/AARP>
Interest form link: tinyurl.com/eccleveland

CLEVELAND PICKLE FEST®

The day played out with wonderful weather, thousands of pickle adventure-seekers, non-pickle vendors offering fun merchandise, music and the pickle eating contest.

Thank you sponsors:

The Big Dill Sponsor- Urban Artifact

Bread & Butter Sponsors- AARP Ohio, Barnes Wendling CPAs & Rosemary Rehner, Director, The Lubrizol Corporation, RPM, UPS Foundation, Cleveland Jewish News Canvas Magazine, Cleveland Water, Rumpke Waste and Recycling

Sweet Gherkin Sponsors- The BCJC Group/Baird, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, Cleveland Teachers Union Local 279, Dominion Energy, Fairhill Partners/Stephanie FallCreek, Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of the Western Reserve, Jessica Handlos Gentile, Lamar, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, McGregor, Medical Mutual, Chuck & Ann Zellmer, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Cohen & Company, Shipra Rege, Becky Carlino & Bill Madigan, Joan Ibbett, Brad & Anne Hutchison, Stonewater Golf Club.

Bold Pickins sponsored the pickle eating contest:



Mylee Austin took first place in the youth pickle eating contest. Although her favorite is bread & butter, she paced herself grabbing hold of the spears. She loves pickles and didn't do any pre-contest trials.

Jacob Mostoller downed his jar the quickest in the adult category. His favorite are Kosher or Polish Dill and his enjoyment of pickles is year-round, especially to hydrate himself.



More pictures on our website:
greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For these opportunities contact **Nakeva Williams 216-391-9500 x 2116**

EVENTS

Thanksgiving Turkey Distributions-Help is needed for turkey distributions in the Collinwood and Ohio City Neighborhoods. Turkeys will be distributed at the Collinwood location on Tuesday, November 8th from 3:30-6 p.m. and on Wednesday, November 16th from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Both are outside venues with free parking. Closed-toe shoes are required.

Join the Magic of the North Pole-Showcase your talent! Seeking theatre and performing arts members for the upcoming North Pole Train Adventure program November 11 through December 21.

On Train Volunteers are needed to create a festive atmosphere through personal interaction, song, and techniques to engage visitors. There is a 4-hour per night commitment and training is provided.

ONGOING

Food Rescue Hero- Save the food! There is tons of food waste happening all around, and the rescue team needs volunteers to help collect and deliver food in the community that otherwise would go to waste. It's as easy as downloading an app. Volunteers needed weekdays and weekends.

Help out at the Learning Lab- Provide academic, social and emotional support for refugee youth. Help navigate their school's online portal, provide homework support, and monitor their engagements with assignments and lessons. Volunteer once a week, 2 hours in the evenings, located in west Cleveland.

Stewardship Assistant- Get out and get your hands dirty with the Nature Center Staff. Help with weeding and planting anytime Monday- Friday for 2- 4 hours per month in Shaker Heights.

Deliver Meals to Specific Clients- Help out by delivering meals to client's private residences listed on a route schedule within the time allotted for food safety requirements. Driver will provide a signature and time for each delivery. The deliveries are weekdays and weekends throughout Cuyahoga County.

Hospitality Steward- With this volunteer opportunity you would warmly welcome patients and visitors at a medical facility, while helping to provide patients with comfort items to enhance their experience. Assist guests to locate patient floors, dining areas, the family resource center and provide guidance in navigating room devices, such as TV, iPad, and room white board. Days and times needed: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Weekends, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Connect with a Pal- Chat Pals is 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 older adults aged 55+. Volunteers will call a pal once a week and have friendly conversations with a participant.

Virtual Mentor- Are you passionate about helping students achieve their academic career goals? Join College Now and provide guidance to a high-financial need student through the course of their college career. Communicate online at least two times a month and meet in person at least three times a year at a minimum.

Trash can Assistant- Looking to assist older adults with daily tasks? You can help by moving trash/waste receptacles to the proper areas for pick up. Be comfortable to go outside regardless of weather and calling older adults. Days and times needed are every other week, eve of and day of trash pick-up.

More volunteer opportunities on our website: greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



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Connect with us!

Looking to connect with others virtually?

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is pleased to offer FREE classes via your smartphone, computer or tablet to teach you or make you more comfortable with video platforms such as Zoom or Teams. These platforms are now being used for volunteer orientations or meetings, church/synagogue services and meetings, book clubs and so much more!

A previous program graduate shared with us that: *“Kim is an EXCELLENT teacher. She was never impatient and always sought success for us. She did a great job in grouping us according to our ability. That was very helpful for me.”*

Let us help you! Complete the inquiry form at: <https://forms.gle/33vFhzig4sz1RsUTt6>

Training sessions are open to all volunteers at our partner agencies. Please share with your fellow volunteer friends, even if they are not affiliated with Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

Interested in helping with this project? We are looking for a few volunteers who can lead sessions during the daytime. Contact Kim at kqassner@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org for more information.

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Editor: dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

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