



March/April 2023  
Vol. LI No.2

## NEW CLEVELANDER GETS CONNECTED



Say you are recently retired and moved to a new city where you know few people. Say you want to give back to the community. That brings us to Kenny Gamble. New community. New vocation. New Kenny.

He was born and raised in Washington, D.C., where he worked at NBC News as a news assignment editor for 35 years. One highlight was filling in as a cameraman at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul as the NBC technical staff had gone on strike in '87 and were not allowed to go. After being cut from NBC, he worked at the CBS station in D.C. for another ten years. So after 45 years in the industry, he didn't hesitate to understand, "It was time to leave."

His oldest son and family had moved to North Royalton. Kenny moved to nearby Brecksville two years ago but needed something to keep him busy. One day while on Facebook, he came across Greater Cleveland Volunteers and explored the website; the rest is his new history.

His first volunteer placement was for NEON, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, to assist in produce distribution. Kenny says he had been looking for "something to do that would be meaningful. After my first assignment, I was hooked." Kenny enjoys volunteering for one-day opportunities.

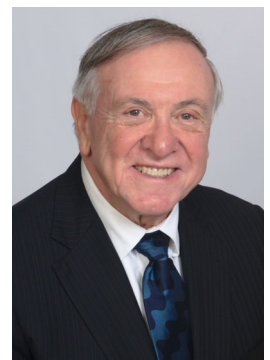
Kenny's youngest son is now living with him. Two grandchildren are here, so he feels happy about the move. He says, "There's so much to do here. Everyone in Cleveland is super friendly." One of his favorite things is exploring the area's beaches and waterfalls. His favorite is Edgewater Park. Overall, Kenny sums it up for potential volunteers: "Do it. Once you get into it, you'll discover how meaningful it is. It's a way to give back to the community."

## GOLDEN MOMENT

**As we celebrate our 50th anniversary we share stories from our friends.**

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has been known by other names over the years but its magnificent mission to connect volunteers with meaningful service opportunities has been a constant. I have been a Board member (now Lifetime Director) for 38 years; and was privileged to serve as Board President.

Five years ago, our staff suggested we hold a Pickle Festival to raise money for our programs and increase awareness of our agency. Our board was a little skeptical, but also interested in trying something new. On the day of the first Pickle Fest, I journeyed downtown to attend. As I walked towards the event, I noticed large numbers of people moving in the same direction. I wondered where these people were headed. When I arrived on site, I received my answer. Literally thousands were attending the Pickle Fest...OUR Pickle Fest, munching on pickles, drinking pickle beer, clad in Pickle Fest t-shirts. I beamed with pride and joy. A tear might have rolled down my cheek. Now the whole community would know about us. The moral of the story is this: Next time someone suggests an "outside the box" idea to you, don't laugh. It just might happen."



Bill Leahy

## TEGNA FOUNDATION SUPPORTS EDUCATION

**TEGNA**  
FOUNDATION

The TEGNA Foundation is a corporate foundation sponsored by TEGNA Inc. TEGNA's local partner is WKYC-TV. Through its Community Grant Program, the foundation supports needs in the communities where they do business.

In Cleveland, one of the primary focus areas is education. The TEGNA Foundation and WKYC have provided support to our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program for many years.

We are grateful for this support to help engage volunteers in helping young students improve their reading skills in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Euclid City Schools. In addition to funding, WKYC helps promote volunteerism and Greater Cleveland Volunteers opportunities. Thank you to TEGNA and WKYC for their continued support!



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## WELCOME NEW PARTNER



We are excited to be partnering with US Together and their all-important mission of coordinating, organizing, and initiating services to refugees and immigrants through education, advocacy, support services, information, referrals, and networking opportunities to strengthen the community we live in and to promote international understanding through intercultural exchange.



Volunteers can serve this mission as an ESL tutor, help set up a new home or help a family learn about their new community and where bus routes are, grocery stores, libraries and more as a Community Navigator. Days and times are flexible.

Join us in welcoming US Together and contact Nakeva at 216-391-9500 x 2116 or [nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## VOLUNTEER AND BRING A FRIEND

Greater Cleveland Volunteers' Refer a Friend Program is back, and you both could win a cash prize! Do you have at least five volunteer hours with Greater Cleveland Volunteers? If so, you can refer a friend starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. Once your friend accumulates five hours, both of you will be automatically entered in a drawing for \$25 each.

**Last day to submit volunteer hours: June 17<sup>th</sup> - Cash Prize Drawing: June 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**CLICK [HERE](#) TO ENTER!**

For more information contact Keva Williams at [nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) or 216-391-9500 x 2116

For these opportunities contact **Nakeva Williams**  
[nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) or 216-391-9500 x 2116

## **EVENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Dance Party-** It's time to dance! Join the monthly dance party on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at a senior activity center in Parma. Next dance is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Help serve refreshments or put on your dancing shoes and get moving to the beat. Free parking and refreshments. Dress as you please, comfortable to Sunday best.

**Boomer Bash is Back!-** Join the celebration and assist guests at the information table or as a wayfinder on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-7 p.m. in Westlake. Shifts available and time will be available to enjoy the Disco themed fun, entertaining and educational event for 50+ adults. Free parking

**Care Day-** Join the team of dedicated volunteers at a hygiene distribution on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10:30am-12:30pm in the Ohio City Neighborhood. Help with registration, refreshments, packaging and distributing hygiene bags. Also, data entry assistance is needed. Black t-shirt, if possible, dress for the weather in comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes. Free parking

**Fight For Air Climb-** Volunteers needed for non-profit's fundraising event on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 7a.m.-1p.m at Progressive Field. Help with t-shirt distribution, registration, or as a wayfinder/cheerleader. Beverages and snacks provided, \$5 parking. Volunteer t-shirt provided, to be worn with clean no holed jeans/pants, rubber soled shoes and weather appropriate gear.

## **ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Transporter-** Seeking an opportunity that shows compassion and empathy? Help older adults get from place to place within their living facilities in East Cleveland. Transport individuals in wheelchairs to desired areas and oversee visitation with their family and friends in the area to ensure they are safe and secure. Volunteers are needed on weekdays and weekends with flexible hours.

**Inform & Inspire-** Help connect patients in local hospitals to a supportive community prior to their release from the hospital. The goal of the program is to increase patients' awareness of the option they have for additional mental health support when settling back into life at home. Volunteers help to raise awareness of NAMI Greater Cleveland to patients in need and give examples of recovery and hope. Volunteers needed twice a month for 2-3 hours.

**Computer Lab Assistant-** Live in the Ohio City neighborhood? As most people know, finding the first job out of high school can be stressful. This is your chance to give back to the students in your community. Center is looking for someone to help students in the computer lab who are job hunting. Volunteers needed Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 1-4p.m.

**Nursing Clerical Assistant-** Assist the health of the community without needing the credentials! Nursing Clerical Assistants help take the burden off staff and allows them to focus on other work that needs to be completed. Responsibilities include filing, copying, scanning, sorting, and data entry. Volunteers needed in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood any weekdays for 2-hour shifts.



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*Connect with us!*

**— SAVE THE DATE —**  
**For our 5th annual Cleveland Pickle Fest®**  
**Saturday, September 23, 2023**  
**12 - 6 p.m.**  
**Mall B - Downtown Cleveland**  
**300 St. Clair Ave. NE**

**Food Trucks - Live Music - Beer -**  
**Pickle Eating Contests - Lots of Pickles!**



Greater Cleveland Volunteers is funded in part by AmeriCorps Seniors and the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.