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Pickle Fest a Huge Success



Thousands of people poured into the Mall in downtown Cleveland on Saturday, September 23, to celebrate volunteerism and all things pickles. The fifth annual event was held under perfect skies with dozens of vendors and food trucks on hand.

Attendance was brisk all day, with an estimated 7,200 people enjoying the festival.

The music stage featured two bands, with Billy Likes Soda returning again to lead off the afternoon. Later, Centric Soul took the stage to round out the day.

In between the two bands, the much-anticipated pickle-eating contests took place, one for children 14 and under, the other for adults.

Pickle Fest could not be possible without the help of the dozens of volunteers who turned out to set up, operate, tear down, and clean up the event. An enormous thank you to all who volunteered, plus staff, in making this year's Pickle Fest one of the best yet.

We heard from many festival goers how much they enjoyed the event, as well as a number of vendors who said how successful it was for them.

Pickle Fest is Greater Cleveland Volunteers' largest fund raiser of the year, and the money raised goes a long way toward continuing our mission throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who made the 2023 Pickle Fest such a "big dill". See page 2 for additional coverage.

CHAT PALS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Chat Pals is a phone- or video-based (Facetime or Zoom) program designed to provide:

- * Connection to community * Emotional support*
 - * Companionship * Improved mental & physical well-being*
- Participants (55+) are matched with volunteers (18+) based on like-minded interests and experiences so a friendship can be formed remotely.*

To volunteer, contact Kirsten Riley, 216-391-9500 x2124 or kriley@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

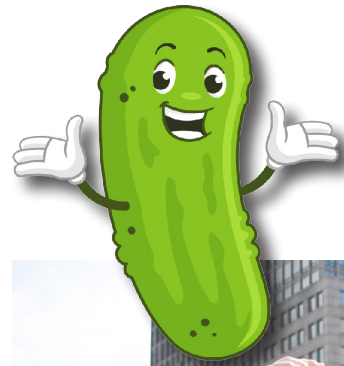


CHAT PALS



A program of Greater Cleveland Volunteers

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



Highlights from Pickle Fest 2023



THANK YOU TO OUR PICKLE FEST SPONSORS



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For these opportunities, contact Nakeva Williams:
216-391-9500 x2116 or nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

Event Opportunities

Night to Fight Hunger—Make Hunger Disappear by offering your time and talent at the Night to Fight Hunger to benefit the Hunger Network on Friday, November 3rd from 5:30-11:30pm in the Detroit-Shoreway Neighborhood. Offer to assist with registration, food/beverages, or auction.

Ongoing Opportunities

PPE Inventory Volunteer—Help keep our wonderful health care workers safe and healthy! Volunteers are asked to assemble personal protective equipment and packets in the Lakewood area. Help needed on weekdays for 2–3-hour shifts.

Meal Delivery Driver—Help feed our community by delivering hot meals to older adults. Volunteer drivers are asked to pick up and drop off food weekdays and weekends with flexible shifts.

Learning Partner—Looking to give back in the Lakeshore, Near West and Shaker Neighborhoods this year? Become a Learning Partner! Volunteers are asked to exchange ideas and build Intergenerational friendships by working with Students (K-8th grade) individually or in small groups to support reading or math learning. Weekdays 1–3-hour shifts.

Library Aide—Support local libraries! Located near Euclid, the library serving sight challenged clients needs assistance with general clerical and sorting tasks. Volunteers are needed on weekdays.