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Greater Cleveland Volunteers celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Friday, April 21, 2023, with a gala luncheon at the Embassy Suites in Independence. Over 300 people were in attendance, including honorees, guest speakers, Greater Cleveland Volunteers board members, volunteers, sponsors, and staff.

Joy Banish, Greater Cleveland Volunteers' executive director, hosted the event and introduced Rosemary Rehner, GCV's Board President, who welcomed everyone and thanked the volunteers in attendance.

The guest speaker, Monica Robins, 3News Senior Health Correspondent, took the stage next. She is an Emmy award winning reporter well known as one of Northeast Ohio's most reliable and trusted sources for health news. She described her harrowing and inspiring battle with a brain tumor, and how volunteering has impacted her life.

A 50th Anniversary highlight video was played, spotlighting the growth and development of the organization since it began in 1972.

After the video, three people were honored for their service and commitment. The Frances White Gale

Award for Educational Excellence was presented to Margaret Dobbins and Eric Gordon.

When Margaret retired in 2018, she wanted to do something to help children. Her neighbor connected her to Greater Cleveland Volunteers, and she became involved in the AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program.

Margaret has been tutoring 2nd and 3rd-grade students at A.J. Rickoff Elementary School in Cleveland ever since. She continued to serve throughout the pandemic even when schools were closed and tutoring shifted to being done via video conferencing. In addition to tutoring, she helps with new Experience Corps volunteer training, sharing her skills with new tutors and encouraging and mentoring them.



Eric Gordon was appointed CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) in 2011 after serving as the district's Chief Academic Officer for four years. He is responsible for the leadership and daily management of Cleveland's 35,600-student school district. In 2012, Mr. Gordon led the effort to develop the "Cleveland Plan," which has dramatically improved academic performance, including a 29% gain in graduation rates.

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SAVE *the* DATE

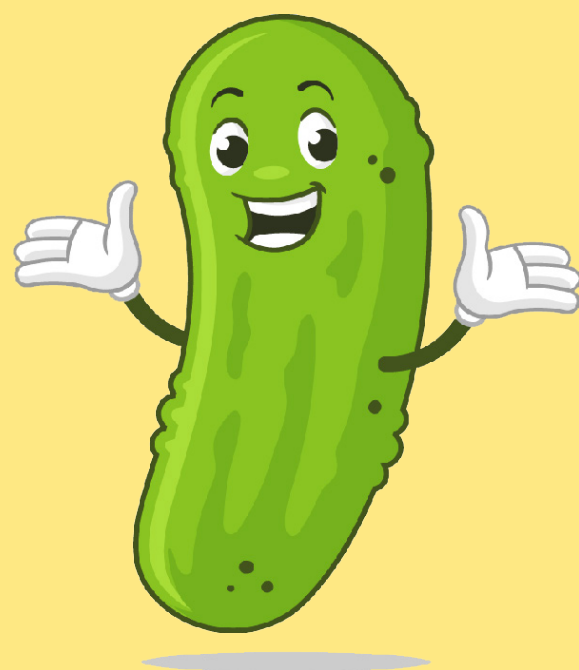
For our 5th Annual Cleveland Pickle Fest®

Saturday, Sept 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.



Clark Button, Margaret Dobbins, Eric Gordon

He has mentored numerous CMSD students and encouraged and supported them throughout their academic and personal lives. Eric has supported Greater Cleveland Volunteers AARP Foundation Experience Corps programs since he started at the district and is a strong supporter of all volunteers. There is no better champion for Cleveland's students than Eric Gordon.

With great honor, Clark Button was presented the David F. Leahy Award for Volunteer Excellence. He has been volunteering for over 35 years and when he retired, he greatly expanded his volunteering efforts. In 2018, Clark began volunteering as a computer lab volunteer at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter. He staffs a six-station lab there, helping men develop basic computer skills such as filling out forms and creating or updating resumes.

Clark also volunteers regularly with Holden Forests and Gardens, where he monitors trails, records plant collections, assists scientists, and helps in the continuing education department. He also helps at the Ohio Library for the Blind and Disabled, and distributes food for NEON. In all, he has helped more than 40 organizations in our community! Clark's willingness to go above and beyond and dedicate himself to helping our community is extraordinary, and well-deserving of the David F. Leahy Award for Volunteer Excellence.



Joy Banish, Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Volunteers



Rosemary Rehner, Board President, Greater Cleveland Volunteers



Monica Robins, 3News Senior Health Correspondent

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Event Opportunities

Be a Big Dill and Volunteer at Cleveland Pickle Fest®—Come Celebrate Cleveland, Pickles and Volunteerism while offering a helping hand at the Cleveland Pickle Fest® on Saturday, September 23rd to benefit Greater Cleveland Volunteers! Join the team at Mall B assisting with admissions, at a beverage tent, as a festival assistant or with set up/clean up. Shifts are available between 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Snacks, beverages, and a T-shirt provided, along with our heartfelt thanks.

Pick the Date-Pack the Produce—Volunteers needed throughout the month in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County to assist with food and produce distributions this season. Help receive the delivery, sort, and safely distribute to individuals and families. Visit bit.ly/3Bi61jH for a list of upcoming distributions.

Family Fun Fair—Bring fun and joy to children 14 and under with disabilities by offering your time and a smile at a Family Fun Fair. Volunteers can help with set up/clean up, parking, greeting, activity tables and refreshments on Sunday, July 30th from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. in Highland Hills. Free parking and beverages provided.



Ongoing Opportunities

Small Business Mentor—Have you started a business and consider yourself a guru? Use those skills to mentor others to do the same. Creating local businesses helps boost the economy and support our community. Mentors help clients start their own businesses, solve problems, make businesses more efficient, and assist with developing long-term business plans. They work one on one, or sometimes as part of a mentoring team. Volunteers schedule is flexible depending on the client's needs and location.

Donation Organizer—Help reduce landfill waste and impact the community at the same time! Sort new goods (ex. clothes, home items, craft supplies, baby items, outdoor/gardening materials, hygiene items, etc.) that will be distributed to nonprofits, schools, and faith-based entities. Volunteers needed Weekdays 10a.m.-12p.m. or 12-2pm. The warehouse is located in the Glenville neighborhood.

Learning Lab Volunteer—Are you a retired teacher? Or just want to help refugee kids thrive at school? Support students' ability to navigate their school's online portal, provide homework support, and monitor their engagement with assignments and lessons. Work with students on supplemental learning materials provide. Commit to building long-term relationships with students and supporting them at least throughout a full academic cycle. Located in the Detroit Shoreway Neighborhood.