



Volunteer Spotlight: We caught up with volunteer, Patrice Varzelle and asked her “Why do you Volunteer?”

“I wanted to do something that I could feel good about. Doing clerical work for big companies and firms just doesn’t have the same feel-good sense of satisfaction I would get when I assisted people in meeting their basic needs. For many years I have wanted to do art, not just for myself but in a bigger way.

When I contacted Greater Cleveland Volunteers seeking any volunteer needs for art, I was surprised they gave me two opportunities; working with seniors and working with children. I took both. What a great way to share my love of art and encourage others to explore their own creativity!

I enjoyed teaching seniors art techniques at the Euclid Senior Center, however a schedule conflict has caused me to discontinue. I still offer my time and am witnessing the growing talents and excitement of the children in the Malachi Center afterschool program when we have art time. Branching outside of the artistic community I also volunteer with Refugee Response tutoring resettled students in math and reading.”



Patrice enjoys the variety of her volunteer work. Part of this could be from her childhood. She is 1 of 11 children and was brought up with a strong work ethic. Keeping active is necessary.

Patrice concludes with this inspirational message, “Whatever it is you enjoy doing, Greater Cleveland Volunteers has a position for you to share your joy with others, whether it is: art, music, dance, crafting, teaching, reading, listening, or inciting smiles ... you will find fulfillment in sharing your own personal gifts, talents and joy.”

A WORD FROM JOY

I enjoy the end of the year with the family gatherings, holidays and celebrations, coupled with time to reflect and consider new actions. With that same enthusiasm I embrace the “start-over” of a new year. It gives me the opportunity to plan things I want to accomplish during the year- both personally and professionally.

2016 is off to a great start for Greater Cleveland Volunteers. We have a few new partner agencies (page 3). We have launched a new look to our website- check it out at greaterclevelandvolunteers.org. We are also making some changes to this newsletter to feature more stories about our volunteers and their impact.

We announce our annual volunteer recognition events for the year. We will again hold two events- a luncheon and an evening reception (see below).

Happy New Year!

Joy Banish, Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebrations.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Holiday Inn-Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence 44131

Luncheon 12 to 1:30 p.m. - - - - Evening reception 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Invitations will mailed to active volunteers at the end of February.

HELPING US HELP OTHERS: The Harvard Business School

The Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts is a long way from Cleveland. 636 miles, in fact. But they bring their passion for Cleveland and children in a way that impacts thousands of children.



This group of Harvard Business School alumni has been supporting the AARP Experience Corps literacy tutoring program in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for ten years. They believe that improving basic literacy is key to strengthening our future workforce, since the children of today will be the employees (and entrepreneurs) of tomorrow. As a testament of their beliefs, the Harvard Business School Club of Northeastern Ohio provides financial support to the tutoring program.

We are grateful for the Club's philanthropy and for our long partnership as we are sure that the children's lives they touch are deeply impacted.

You too can be a part of this effort, call us to find out more about how you can make a difference in a child's future by volunteering or donating today.

Contact 216-391-9500 x 113 agoldman@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

We thank the following donors, who generously made gifts between November 1 and December 31, 2015:

\$10,000 and above The Cleveland Foundation • McGregor Foundation • Third Federal Foundation

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A list of in-kind donors is on page 3.

Our thanks to the following for their in-kind support of our events, July to December 2015.

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R.E. Pruitt, Inc.

Vision: *To have a community that reinforces and cultivates the love for literacy.*

R.E. Pruitt, Inc. is an exposure program that focuses on education and career development, targeting culturally diverse and surrounding communities. They strive to inspire educational growth, continuing education exposure and career development awareness.

Eunetta Brimage, Executive Director explains, "This program allows us to be a part of the solution. It takes a village."

Located in Euclid, volunteers are needed as career coach/mentors to work with high school aged youth on soft career/job skills by conducting mock interviews, shadowing/overseeing youth on real world job sites, assisting with resume writing and leading groups on topics such as; career exploration, goals and personal presentations.

Volunteers should be effective communicators, detail-oriented and professional.

To find out volunteer specifics contact:
Jan at 216-391-9500 x 124
jvectirelis@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



Vision: *To be the #1 educational resource for under-resourced adults with learning disabilities by providing a seamless identification process, a network of providers, and support in reaching their educational and career goals.*

The LD Edge Network is a non-profit network for adults with learning disabilities and is located in the Clark Fulton neighborhood of Cleveland.

"We started this because we found a huge gap in the area of learning disabilities for adults in poverty. Many adults had Individual Education Plans (IEP) in school, but they're no longer valid. Providing a diagnosis is our main service." Holly Roe, Executive Director describes their history.

They set the stage to offer affordable training for the sensitive, appropriate assessment and evaluation of students in adult education programs, educators and tutors.

Volunteer opportunities include tutor/trainer, special events coordinator and various office-related tasks. To find out all details contact"

For volunteering questions contact:
Nadine at 216-391-9500 x 122
ngamble@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



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We are holding our annual non-perishable food and personal hygiene collection

February 15, 16, 17, 18, 2016

Two Collection Sites

Greater Cleveland Volunteers Office
4415 Euclid Avenue, Suite # 200, Cleveland 44103-3758
free parking

107.3 The WAVE Radio Station
6133 Rockside Road, Suite # 102, Independence 44133

If you need your donation picked-up from your vehicle at Greater Cleveland Volunteers office, call us before delivery at **216-391-9500** and we will assist.

Food: canned tuna, peanut butter, soup, granola bars, cereal, oatmeal, jam/jelly, crackers, pasta, pasta sauce, fruit and vegetable juice, juice boxes.

Personal hygiene: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper, deodorant.