With a successful career behind him, Lawrence Gaylor was on track to put in volunteering time when cancer set him back. Today he is cancer-free and helps out local causes.

Lawrence had a 35-year career at an industrial water treatment company, retiring as a product manager. Throughout his career, he had an interest in giving back to the community, so he represented his company by serving Junior Achievement. He was a long-time regular with the Hillcrest Meals on Wheels. Then, in 2004 he saw a notice in his church newsletter about volunteering at the West Side Catholic Center, a partner of Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

Lawrence was a clothing room volunteer for 5 years before becoming a representative at the registration desk. One half-day a week he greets and registers guests as they enter. As the first person a client sees, Lawrence helps coordinate resources for the guests such as; pointing out current programs, making them aware of legal, medical and various social services as they occur on a daily schedule. If there is a match, Lawrence refers a person to a West Side Catholic Center professional staff member.

He has often taken on additional assignments. He’s enjoyed serving as a Red Coat usher at Playhouse Square, plus countless event assignments. Lawrence reflects, “When I get together with folks, I am promoting the community. If you don’t have anything to do, go out and enjoy volunteering. You could learn a lot!”

Editors note: During the pandemic Lawrence is taking a leave of absence and is looking forward to returning soon.

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FUND
Greater Cleveland Volunteers is a grant recipient

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is pleased to receive funding from the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund coalition. This coalition of local corporations, foundations and individual donors is providing funding to nonprofit organizations that are helping those impacted by the pandemic and/or to organizations who need to change their programming due to COVID-19.

The funding we received will help with the costs of transitioning our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program from an in-school program to a virtual program in the upcoming school year. Funding will also support the time of our program manager to allow us to advise local nonprofits on re-starting their volunteer programs and assist them in recruiting new volunteers.

We have used photos in this newsletter and on our social media channels of volunteers pre COVID-19. We encourage and recommend that everyone practices the safety measures recommended by the Ohio Department of Health or mandated. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S CORNER

During the last 5 months, we’ve all seen the world change. From how and when we go to the grocery store to how and when we add entertainment to our lives. It’s been encouraging to see stories of people helping their neighbors- stepping outside their lives to make a positive difference. Read about a few of our volunteers who are doing just that on page 3.

This spring we held two fundraising activities. In May we partnered with Dean’s Greenhouse to raise funds for our programming. Thanks to Dean’s for their continued support and for all who shopped there during the month. In June we partnered with Melt bar & grilled restaurants for a “dine to donate” event. Melt donated a percentage of sales every Tuesday in June to Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Many thanks to Melt and to everyone that ordered food in support of our agency.

We are finalizing plans for our revised Cleveland Pickle Fest event. Due to COVID-19, we have had to change the large-scale community festival we were planning. You can read more about Pickle Week 2020 on the insert.

As more local nonprofit agencies re-open we are learning about their volunteer needs. Please let our staff know if you are ready to start volunteering again or are looking for a new volunteer opportunity. You can contact Nakeva Williams at nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2116.

Meanwhile, stay safe, take time to do something for yourself, and enjoy summertime in Cleveland.

Joy Banish
Executive Director

AARP FOUNDATION EXPERIENCE CORPS
Elementary school literacy tutoring program

We will again be operating the AARP Foundation Experience Corps this school year. At this time, with so much pending, we are still working out the details but do know that we will continue to provide one-on-one literacy tutoring to struggling K-3rd graders. This year, tutoring will occur virtually from your home.

In order to tutor virtually, tutors (aged 50+) will need a computer/laptop/tablet with high speed internet, video and microphone capability.

To learn more, please reach out to Nakeva Williams, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at 216-391-9500 x 2116 or nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org. She will contact you once additional details become available. We hope to conduct training for tutoring in the fall.

Join us in helping a K-3rd grade student show progress in their reading skills.

MEET ONE OF OUR FUNDERS
The Stocker Foundation

The Stocker Foundation was established by the Stocker family in 1979. Since its founding, the Foundation has awarded more than $60 million to organizations in the communities where Stocker family members live, with a special focus on Lorain County, Ohio, which is where their headquarters are located.

The Foundation focuses its grant making on early education. Specifically, lessening the reading achievement gap for under-resourced pre-kindergarten through third grade public school students.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is very grateful for the generous financial support it has received from The Stocker Foundation since 2010. This funding supports our AARP Foundation Experience Corps program that engages volunteer tutors to help students in the Cleveland Metropolitan and Euclid City schools improve their reading.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
Updates from our volunteers

We have seen many of our nonprofit partner agencies reduce volunteer needs for everyone’s safety during COVID-19. This has given our volunteers the opportunity to use the time for themselves in a variety of ways or help with volunteer efforts at other agencies or projects.

Shirley Hemminger, Special Events volunteer

Shirley has been volunteering 2-3 hours a day at McGregor. She is helping them take employee temperatures as they enter the building. She has no involvement with the residents. She remarked that this gets her out of the house and to do something productive. She’s been making a lot of new friends with the employees.

Mark Cline, American Red Cross volunteer

Mark’s assignments have remained the same. He serves as a Disaster Team Leader, both virtually and while practicing social distancing. Every safety precaution is taken with his volunteer work. He also monitors the National Shelter System (NSS) a database of disaster shelters should there be a need.

Sherry Jackson, Birthday Caller and Greater Cleveland Volunteers newsletter volunteer

She continues to make her birthday calls to our volunteers who appreciate the phone call. Sherry makes sure she takes breaks for walks and light exercise.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For all these listed, please contact Nancy Dzurnak at ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2123

Sorting Medical Supplies - Volunteers are needed to help sort medical supplies that can assist with COVID-19 relief or humanitarian aid. This may include sorting medical supplies into categories, matching similar items together, boxing and labeling inventory, or other projects as needed. No medical background is needed. There are weekday, weeknight and weekend shifts available.

Restore Sales Associates - You would help at the ReStore in North Randall or the westside of Cleveland. Volunteers are needed on the sales floor in many departments. You are able to set your own schedule, Tuesday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Exterior Yard/Home Volunteer - Individuals or small groups are requested during the summer for weeding, planting, bush trimming and general yard cleanup for older adults in the communities of Cleveland Heights, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights, Solon and South Euclid.

Food Distribution - Helping hands are needed to assist with greeting, sorting and distributing non-perishable food and produce at a variety of nonprofit/service centers on weekdays throughout Cleveland. Times and days vary by location. One-time volunteers are welcomed.
ENCORE CLEVELAND connects people who are in or nearing retirement from their primary careers with volunteer and employment opportunities through local nonprofit organizations.

Discover more at
https://www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/encore_cleveland.php

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