



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Ready to volunteer again



Norma Storer, a Michigan native, followed her husband to Cleveland for his job and settled in Shaker Heights 22 years ago. As a registered nurse, she found extremely rewarding employment at nearby University Hospitals, where she worked with HIV/AIDS patients. Now officially retired, Norma still assists with special projects and research.



With a lifetime of helping people, volunteering after retirement was her natural path forward. Norma spent some time tutoring with AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program then turned to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

Pre-pandemic she spent three hours Wednesday mornings working the Welcome Desk and the Duck Pond (the Nature Center's gift shop). She also helped with special events or projects – whatever needed to be done. Norma has expanded her connection to the Duck Pond by making greeting cards and donating them for sale at the Duck Pond. Her items are very popular and keep her busy.

Norma continues to make use of the land, whether alone or with friends. She finds this a “mental health treatment place”. I’ve even become an amateur birder,” says Norma.

While on hiatus from volunteering, Norma still gets over to the Center to either read on her own, or join friends for coffee and a snack. “It’s been a god-send. I’ve met a lot of people by just being out there.”

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## AARP FOUNDATION EXPERIENCE CORPS Elementary school literacy tutoring program

We will again be operating the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program this school year to students in 1st-3rd grade, but tutoring will be accomplished over the computer.

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

Contact Nakeva Williams 216-391-9500 x 2116 or [nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).



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We have used photos in this newsletter and on social media of volunteers pre COVID-19. We encourage and recommend that everyone practices the safety measures recommended by the Ohio Department of Health.

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home>

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### Joy Banish

As fall begins, we are busy with preparations to restart our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program. The program will look different this year as tutoring will occur over video conferencing on the computer. Tutors are learning how to use the technology and how to work with students over the computer.

While the method for tutoring has changed, the focus of the program has not. It still engages volunteers to work individually with students throughout the school year to help them learn to become better readers. The caring, supportive relationships our volunteers offer will still be the same and students will be eager to spend time with their tutor.

We are also excited to start a new volunteer program to help address social isolation among older adults. Social isolation is a detriment to health and the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many people to feel isolated and alone. This especially has a negative impact on the health of older adults.

I am proud of our dedicated staff who has been working hard to modify our programs and create new ones to address needs that have arisen because of COVID-19.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Nancy Dzurnak at [ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) or 216-391-9500 x 2123

**Spend time in the garden before the days get colder**-Assist with mulching, planting, watering, weeding, deadheading, pruning etc. Work with plants, soil, irrigation system, tools and equipment. Greet and interact with visitors and answer general inquiries about the garden and ensure the safety of visitors and appropriate use of the grounds. Morning shifts available in University Circle.

**Preparing Job Seekers through Virtual Mock Interviews**-Mock interviews are critical in preparing participants for the job search process. Conduct virtual mock interviews and give constructive critique. Must be comfortable with people with criminal backgrounds. Days and times vary Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.



*May Dugan Center*

**Reception Desk Volunteer**-Greeters are needed at the Cleveland and Westlake locations of a hospice facility to welcome and direct visitors. A volunteer must have the willingness to help people, ability to maintain patient's confidentiality, be reliable and non-judgmental. Shifts available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Food, Produce and Senior Box Distributions**-Many branches of Cuyahoga County Public Libraries along with additional Cleveland locations are in need of volunteers to help with food and produce distributions. Receiving delivery, sorting and safely distributing. Most distributions are outdoors. Times and days varies by location. One time volunteers are welcomed.



*Fairhill Partners*

## CLEVELAND PICKLE WEEK

Thanks to everyone that participated in the Cleveland Pickle Week activities.

We held a 5K with more than 340 runners/walkers that was well-received along with a mini Pickle Fest with vendors that offered merchandise from pickles to wearable items, to probiotic juices and pickled condiments.

**Much appreciation to these event sponsors that provided gifts of \$500 or more:**

AARP Foundation • Hermes Sports & Events • RPM International, Inc.  
The Lubrizol Corporation • The BCJC Group at Baird • Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging  
Becky Carlino-Madigan • Cohen & Company • Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity Hospice of the Western Reserve • Joan Ibbett • Bob Mast • Meaden & Moore  
Murtis Taylor Human Services System • The Center for Community Solutions  
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center • Stanley Wertheim • Ann Zellmer

**Thank you to the participating vendors:**

Benchmark Prints • Bold Pickins • Burntwood Tavern • Darby & Cikity • Happy Pickler  
Stray Dog Café • The Crazy Cucumber, LLC



# Greater Cleveland Volunteers

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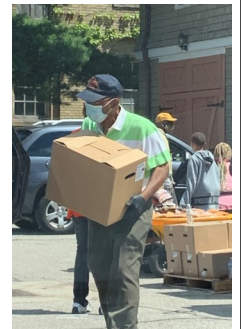
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Thank you volunteers for your help at food distribution sites



Call us to offer your time at any of the locations  
216-391-9500 x 2123

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