Volunteer Awards

At our Volunteer Recognition celebration held via Zoom we presented two awards to outstanding volunteers for their efforts in 2020.

The David F. Leahy Award for Volunteer Excellence is given to a Greater Cleveland Volunteers member that demonstrates the true meaning of volunteerism by executing his/her duties in an exceptional manner.

Shirley Hemminger has been an active Greater Cleveland Volunteers member for four years and has offered her time and talent for many ongoing and event volunteer opportunities.

During the past year, she assisted with distributing food to families in need at several locations and served as a guardian with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Adult Guardianship Services by assisting with end-of-life decisions for an adult who had no one else to help.

In addition, Shirley served more than 300 hours at McGregor in 2020. As a retired nurse, she greeted the staff at McGregor each day taking their temperatures as they arrived for work. As the year progressed, Shirley also helped at the front desk and provided support to hospice patients.

Congratulations, Shirley!

The Frances White Gale Award for Educational Excellence. This award is given to a person, group, or organization that has provided outstanding service in helping educate youth in our community. This year we presented it to James Spearman.

In a year that has presented many challenges and changes, few have risen to the occasion quite like James Spearman. Jim has been an outstanding tutor for more than four years in our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program. His patient and kind manner serves him well in everything he does and makes him a joy to be around. He has excellent rapport with his students, works well with school staff, and is a valued member of the Experience Corps team.

In addition to tutoring students at Andrew J. Rickoff school in Cleveland, Jim has become a mentor for other tutors in the program. He has worked with them to help improve their digital literacy and assure that they are comfortable using the technology needed for the program.

Congratulations, Jim!
Executive Director’s Corner
Volunteers and Summer Fun!
Joy Banish

Thank you to all who participated in our Virtual Volunteer Recognition Celebration event on April 22. We recognized two wonderful volunteers, Shirley Hemminger and Jim Spearman for their dedication and hard work during the past year and had fun playing on-line bingo with a disco theme. Congratulations to our bingo winners. Thanks most especially to the sponsors and donors who contributed to help make this event possible!

As we enter the summer months, and more people are getting their COVID-19 vaccine, we are starting to see more volunteer opportunities opening up and more volunteers re-starting their activities. I encourage all of our volunteers to get vaccinated so you can re-start the activities you used to enjoy doing or start some new activities. If you are ready to start volunteering again, please look on our website or contact us at 216-391-9500 x 2116.

We are planning to hold our annual Pickle Fest event again this year, on Saturday, August 28th at the Brecksville-Broadview Heights high school complex and will include a 5k run, a 10-mile bike ride, 1-mile walk, pickle vendors, music, and family fun. See the information below and more will be shared as the date gets closer. I hope you will join us to celebrate volunteerism and all things Pickle!
Volunteer Recognition
Celebrated Virtually!

Every year we have enjoyed a volunteer celebration to honor our partner agencies, friends and most importantly the people who volunteer their time at Cuyahoga County nonprofit agencies. Last year we “took it on the road” to present awards to an outstanding volunteer and a partner agency excelling in education. This year we, like everyone else, held a full ceremony virtually!

You read the stories about our two volunteers featured on the newsletter cover. Both Jim Spearman and Shirley Hemminger continued to volunteer and do what they could for literacy tutoring and ensuring other services were met by nonprofit agencies.

We congratulate them and thank the wonderful sponsors who continued to demonstrate their support of our agency and our volunteers!

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If you missed the Awards Celebration we have a video on our website.
greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/events

We continued the celebration with Disco music and bingo. Some participants dressing the part.

Volunteer Award recipients,
Shirley Hemminger (left) and
Jim Spearman.
Chat Pals
A New Program

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has launched a new program, Chat Pals. This is a telephone-based or video-based (Facetime or Zoom) program designed to be a support system, which hopes to provide emotional support and companionship to people in our community.

The intention of this program is to bring people together based off like-minded interests and experiences, so that a friendship can be formed remotely.

Older adults who may experience separation from friends or family, retirement, loss of mobility, and lack transportation are at particular risk—leaving them vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness.

Chat Pals is a great program for individuals 55+ who want to stay connected to the community and hopefully make a new friend along the way! If you, a family member, or friend would enjoy a chat with a pal, please contact Kirsten Riley kriley@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2124.

Tutoring via Zoom
Continuing to read

Our AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring program was able to continue this school year despite several hurdles for everyone.

We thank the tutors who had to adapt to their training and tutoring virtually. Regardless of the method the students in both the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Euclid City Schools benefitted with continued one-on-one lessons and encouragement.

Our tutors spent on average of more than five hours learning and becoming comfortable with the new technology components of the program in addition to their typical pre-service training.

New resources were added with the Ohio Digital Library for sourcing their read-aloud books.

If you are interested in making a difference in a young student’s life you can learn more and apply to become a tutor on our website or contact Charlotte Petrie, cpetrie@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2119. Interviews will occur over the summer with training in the fall.
EVENT:
SUMMER CAMP- Volunteers are needed for a day camp for children ages 6-12 which is designed to give children the opportunity to share their grief experiences in creative ways. The camp is held July 12-16th in Independence. You could help as a group facilitator, meal/kitchen assistant or a field trip chaperone. Onboarding and training is provided and required prior to the camp.

HELP WITH VACCINATIONS- Volunteers can assist at vaccination clinics at multiple locations in Cleveland on a variety of days and times. Greet, distribute forms, direct foot traffic, help with screening, assist as a safety monitor or data entry. Volunteers will need to complete a 90-minute virtual training prior to volunteering.

ON-GOING:
Trail Ambassador Volunteer- Greet and interact with guests out on the trails at a nature center in Shaker Heights. Greeting visitors, sharing Nature Center highlights, answering frequently asked questions, and reminding visitors of trail safety guidelines. Volunteers needed Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Volunteer can select their 2-hour shift.

Assist with Family Visits- Transport resident in wheelchair to designated visitation area at East Cleveland older adult living facility. Screen family members by asking Covid-19 symptom questions and take temperature. (non-touch thermometer. Volunteers requested all week.

Help Older Adults Receive Benefits- Call and respond to phone calls remotely from older adults, their family members and other professionals seeking information about benefits eligibility and enrollment. Computer literacy and able to work in a team environment 4 hours a day, 3 days a week.

Office Volunteer- Assistance is needed every Friday for 4 hours at a nonprofit located on the west side of Cleveland. Copying, filing folders, bulk mailings, scanning and helping the Executive Director with the essential administrative tasks. Hours are flexible 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Meals On Wheels- Volunteers would pick up meals at the UH/Richmond Medical Center and deliver to homes and apartments in either Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid or Mayfield Village. Meals delivered Monday-Friday 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Handy Helping Hands Needed- Use your expertise on home projects to evaluate the feasibility of home maintenance request inside and outside of older adult clients’ homes located in 6 suburban east side communities. Plumbing and electric work prohibited. Safely complete appropriate home maintenance projects. You provide the basis tools, materials for projects provided. Typically, 1-2 hours a month while scheduling around your availability.

Food Distribution- Assist at food distribution sites in Cuyahoga County.

For the opportunities listed contact: Nancy Dzurnak ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x 2123
Donations and Contributions
We acknowledge and thank all donors that provided a gift to our agency from October 20, 2020 to April 26, 2021.

AARP Foundation Experience Corps  
Amy Alspach  
Amazon Smile  
Bruce & Judie Amsel  
Anonymous Donors (6)  
Virginia Aroson  
Sally Barbour  
Thomas Barnard  
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#WeAreHere

Entering data for the American Red Cross

Food distribution at a Cuyahoga County Public Library branch
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Robert & Brenda Kunkel
Richard Lawrence
Calvin Leonard
Daniel Lesco
Bonnie Lindberg
The Lubrizol Corporation
Kathy Marszalek
Robert Mast
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Stanley & Sally Wertheim
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging
Eugene Wolchko
L.T. & Lynn Young
Charles & Ann Zellmer
John Zitzner

Delivering food box at an older adult apartment complex
Preparing hygiene supplies for distribution
Sorting medical supplies
Discover the many opportunities from Encore Cleveland to those in or nearing retirement.

There are 11 nonprofit agencies offering these opportunities:

- Employment
- Volunteering
- Starting your own business
- Serving as a project consultant

216-391-9032

https://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/encore_cleveland

Editor: dkall@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org

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