



Volunteer Recognition Night an Inspiring Success

Volunteers were the focus of the evening on June 13 at the Parma Tap House. Over 120 people attended the Volunteer Recognition Night and enjoyed a delicious buffet. It was an unforgettable evening of gratitude and camaraderie. The door prizes were a highlight of the night, with merchandise and gift cards given away to many lucky attendees. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, selflessly giving of their time and talents, and we couldn't be more grateful for their efforts.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

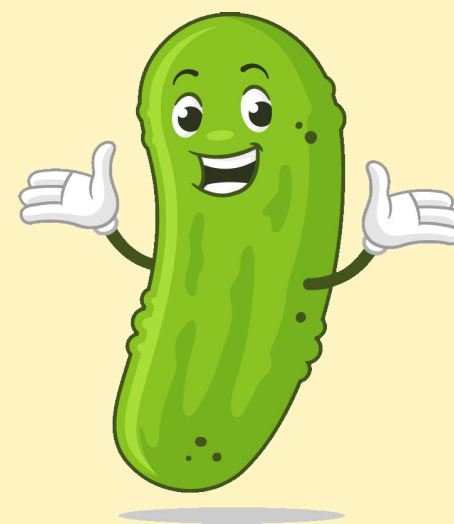


Joan Ibbett Shawn McDermott
Bob & Brenda Kunkel Becky Carlino
Gary & Rosalyn Bombei



IT'S A BIG DILL – PICKLE FEST 2024 IS ALMOST HERE!

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has finalized its plans for the 6th Annual Cleveland Pickle Fest®! Mark your calendar now: Saturday, September 21, 2024 is the day. Festivities are from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Enjoy live music, food trucks, vendors, pickle-eating contests, and of course, pickles! Pickle beer, pickle ice cream, pickle candy, pickles on a stick...pickles everywhere!



Visit the official website for tickets, vendor and sponsor signups, or to sign up as a volunteer. All proceeds benefit Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

www.clevelandpicklefest.com

AARP Foundation Experience Corps Updates



School is out but that doesn't mean AARP Foundation Experience Corps is on break! This June, we had two exciting events for our Experience Corps volunteers, both local and national. The first was our end-of-year celebration for our Cleveland Experience Corps volunteers. We enjoyed fellowship, games, tacos, and cake at nearby Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation. It was a wonderful way for our staff to say thank you to volunteers who give so much time (about four hours per week) to help students improve their reading throughout the year while building our community and getting to know each other more. Even in a heat wave, a good time was had by all.

At the end of June, our partners at the AARP Foundation hosted our annual national meeting, held in the Foundation's offices in Washington, DC. For this year, the Foundation covered the cost for two staff people and one volunteer from each program across the country to attend. Program manager Charlotte Petrie, program coordinator Reggie Adams, and volunteer Therese Moltz all flew to DC to attend the event in person, while other staff and volunteers were able to attend virtually from the comfort of their homes. The national meeting is always a wonderful time to collaborate, share ideas, and meet other folks from across our nationwide network. One highlight from the event was seeing Therese speak on a panel about her experience as a volunteer. She had the room in stitches as she shared candid stories about the fun students she has worked with as a volunteer in our program.



AARP Foundation Experience Corps trains people over 50 as tutors to help students become better readers by the end of third grade. The community-based program helps older adults regain social connections and a sense of purpose, while providing children with the foundation for lifelong success and greater earning potential. Our local program is always looking for caring adults who have a desire to share their love of learning with young readers so if this sounds like the right opportunity for you, apply today!

For more information on Experience Corps, visit
www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/aarp-foundation-experience-corps/

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATION

Volunteers provide a myriad of crucial roles within education, offering their skills and experience inside, and outside, the classroom. According to a UCLA study, when students see adult volunteers in their schools, they see firsthand how members of their community value education and support their local school. This has a magnifying effect on the volunteers' impact.



"Transformative" is a word often used to describe the effect volunteers have on students. The presence of volunteers frees teachers and other school personnel to meet students' needs more effectively, broaden their experiences, strengthen school-community understanding and relations, enhance home involvement, and enrich the lives of volunteers.

In tutoring and mentoring their students, some of the positive impacts include:

- Improving students' literacy and numeracy skills.
- Improving graduation rates.
- Keeping students on track.
- Building social-emotional skills and support students' mental health.
- Boosting academic achievement, including by encouraging family involvement and assisting teachers.

Consider volunteering in an educational setting and help take students' learning to the next level.



Examples of Education-Based Volunteer Opportunities:

ACT Instructor, GED Tutor, Family Fun Assistant, High School Career Mentor, K-8th grade Homework Helper, ELS Tutor, School Group volunteer, Mentor for a Day, Community Navigator/Cultural Tutor, STEAM Volunteer, Youth Literacy Volunteer

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mw6a9mv8> for volunteer opportunities.

Contact Nakeva Williams at nwilliams@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x2116 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cleveland Pickle Fest®-- Celebrate Cleveland, Pickles and Volunteerism while offering a helping hand at the Cleveland Pickle Fest® on Saturday, September 21st to benefit Greater Cleveland Volunteers! Join the team at Mall C assisting with admissions, at beer or festival tents, and the pickle eating contest. Shifts available between 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Snacks, beverages, and T-shirt provided, and our heartfelt thanks.

Tennis in the Land-- Tennis in the Land WTA 250 Tournament is coming to Nautica Waterfront District and volunteers are needed to make the event a success the week of Sat. August 17th-24th. Ticket Takers, Ushers, Fan Fest Assistants and Drivers needed. Shifts daily from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Free parking, meal, beverages provided. Neutral colored bottoms, t-shirt provided, comfortable shoes and hat recommended.

Cleveland 9/11 National Day of Service-- Never forget what we're capable of doing together and join the Cleveland 9/11 Day of Service. Come together on Wed., September 11th at Cleveland Brown's Stadium to pack meals for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Two shifts: 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Free parking, snacks, beverages and T-shirt provided. Comfortable shoes and clothing recommended.

Visit tinyurl.com/GCVEEventVols to see these and other opportunities to make our community more equitable and just. Contact Nancy Dzurnak at ndzurnak@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x2123 for more information.