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Chat Pals Bridges the Gap Between Generations Amidst Loneliness Epidemic

A recent NPR story highlighted the isolation and loneliness older adults sometimes feel, and how organizations throughout the country are stepping up. GCV's own Chat Pals program was created during the pandemic, connecting participants age 55+ with volunteers 18+.

Volunteers and participants are matched based on life experiences and interests, and the resulting weekly phone/video calls combat loneliness the participant may feel. And it benefits the volunteer as well!

To listen to the NPR story, visit tinyurl.com/mr4ykwuj



A program of Greater Cleveland Volunteers

For more information on
Chat Pals, visit
tinyurl.com/GCV-ChatPals

Greater Cleveland Volunteers is funded in part by AmeriCorps Seniors and the
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

Annual Giving Campaign Launches

Your contribution changes lives

As a volunteer, donor, or supporter, you understand the tremendous impact your efforts have made in transforming lives and strengthening the fabric of the Cleveland area. You are vital to our community. Local charities are calling on us to help provide even more volunteers to help those in need. That's why we need your help.

Your gift...

- Assists nonprofit organizations in serving the hungry, health care needs, education, arts & culture, and so much more.
- Helps kids learn to read through AARP Foundation Experience Corps.
- Enables older adults to use their skills and experience to connect with those in need through our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program.
- Connects isolated and lonely older adults with new friends via phone calls through our Chat Pals program.



How to give

Visit www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/support-us/
or scan the QR code.



Thank you for support!

**Keep Cleveland Caring:
Your Impact, A Community's Future**

AARP Foundation Experience Corps Featured on WKYC's "We the People"



Charlotte Petrie, AARP Foundation Experience Corps Program Manager, appeared recently on WKYC's long-running "We the People" show. She and host Leon Bibb talked about how Experience Corps helps bring kids in grades 1-3 to grade level in their reading. Charlotte explained that once in 4th grade, kids "are no longer learning to read, but reading to learn," which makes the program so vital. Working in several schools in Cleveland and Euclid, Experience Corps is in need of volunteers, age 50 or better, to help make a lifelong impact in a child's life. For more information, and to apply, visit tinyurl.com/GCV-ExpCorps216

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND IN HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, HUNGER

Homelessness and food insecurity are major challenges in the Cleveland area, but generous volunteers are making a dent in the problem. According to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, one in seven people are food insecure, meaning they don't know where their next meal will come from. Food pantries and distribution points, staffed by volunteers, help to decrease these statistics.



Cleveland.com reports that the number of unhoused residents in Cuyahoga County has remained steady at around 5,000 people over the last several years. In 2023, the County announced a plan to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2027 through a variety of measures, including increasing the housing capacity and connecting residents at risk of homelessness to support services in the area.

The interrelated issues of hunger, housing, and homelessness present many opportunities for volunteers, whether short-term or for longer assignments. The selfless work of volunteers in Northeast Ohio makes such a difference in the lives of those in need. See below for examples of the available opportunities.



Volunteer Opportunities in Housing, Homelessness, and Hunger
Hands On—Construction Team Assistant, Pantry Volunteer, House Helper, Food Distributions, Set Up Crew, Handyperson, Meals on Wheels Driver, Kitchen Helper, Food Rescue Hero
Education—Computer Lab Monitor
Administrative—Housing Office Assistant, Legal Clinic

Visit greaterclevols.vsyslive.com for volunteer opportunities, or scan the QR code.
Contact Nancy Dzurnak at contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x2123 for more information.

GCV Staff Volunteers at MedWish

Greater Cleveland Volunteers employees came together for Staff Volunteer Day, spending the morning at MedWish International. Located in Cleveland, this nonprofit organization repurposes surplus medical supplies and equipment, sending shipments around the world, and to local charities and throughout the US. Our staff received an orientation and then they hit the warehouse floor, sorting everything from wound care supplies, syringes, respiratory tubing, surgical supplies, and more. The GCV staff found the experience very rewarding, knowing that their efforts were helping to save lives, in another country, or their own backyard.



Hofbräuhaus Tap the Keg Fundraiser a Barrel of Fun

Again this year, Hofbräuhaus Cleveland hosted Greater Cleveland Volunteers Night. A packed house cheered on Joy Banish, Executive Director, as she took the mallet and tapped the keg. A long, but enthusiastic, line of people waited for their complimentary glass of Winterzwickel, the beer of the month, all while enjoying the live music from The Shotskis. The 50-50 drawing was a hit, with the proceeds benefiting GCV's programs in the community. Thank you to everyone who came out in support of Greater Cleveland Volunteers Night!



UPCOMING EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

A Bavarian Christkindlmarkt—Help make a German holiday experience a success in Northeast Ohio, by helping pour hot drinks, baking, selling and delivering pretzels, helping with admission or as a cashier or with parking on the weekend of December 7th and 8th in the Parma area. Free parking, snacks and beverages. Dress for the weather, this is an outdoor event, holiday attire encouraged, but not mandatory. Volunteers also needed Wednesday, December 4th – Friday, December 6th to decorate and set up.

December Warehouse Sale—Hospice volunteers bring comfort to patients and their loved ones in a variety of ways, including fundraising efforts. Your efforts can contribute to a successful Warehouse Sale in the Collinwood Neighborhood on Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th. Assistance is needed for 3 shifts, on Saturday 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and on Sunday 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Moving furniture or sales floor help. Free parking, light snacks and beverages provided. Dress according to weather as the warehouse is not heated or air conditioned, jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts and casual comfortable shoes.

Visit tinyurl.com/GCVEventVols 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.