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Our Broader Support Network

While federal funding plays a central role in our operations, it's far from the only source of support we rely on. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the foundations, community partners, and individual donors whose generosity sustains and strengthens our work every day. Your belief in our mission allows us to connect volunteers with over 100 nonprofit partners across the region, helps us to fight social isolation in older adults, provides support for us to carry out our AARP Foundation Experience Corps program to raise the literacy skills of elementary school students. You truly are helping to make a lasting impact in Greater Cleveland.

Thank You

To our staff, funders, donors, and all our extraordinary volunteers, thank you. You are the heart of Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and more compassionate community. I am honored to lead this organization and excited for what we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

With gratitude,

Kevin Gross

Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Volunteers

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

A Message from Our Executive Director Advocating for Service in Uncertain Times



Dear Friends,

As I approach two months in my role as Executive Director of Greater Cleveland Volunteers, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support and encouragement. It has been an incredible experience getting to know the amazing team here made up of our dedicated staff and our inspiring volunteers. I'm continually impressed by the passion, energy, and commitment to service that embodies this community.

Funding and Federal Landscape

As you may have seen in recent news, AmeriCorps has become a primary target in the current administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) efforts to reduce the size and scope of federal agencies. These proposed cuts are deeply concerning, not only because they threaten critical funding streams, but because they undermine the essential role that service programs play in strengthening communities across the country.

Here at Greater Cleveland Volunteers, we're fortunate that for the time being, our federal funding through AmeriCorps remains intact. We're deeply grateful to the federal employees and program officers working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that organizations like ours can continue to operate without interruption. Still, we are disheartened to witness the broader impact these cuts are already having, both nationally and right here in Greater Cleveland, on nonprofits that rely on federal support to fulfill their missions.

Ramping Up Advocacy

With so much uncertainty, it's never been more important to raise our collective voice in support of volunteerism. Agencies like GCV play a vital role in uplifting countless causes, and that work depends on strong, stable funding and a public commitment to service.

In the coming weeks, I'll be developing and executing a comprehensive advocacy and communications plan to ensure that our elected officials—at the local, state, and especially federal levels—understand just how critical service programs like AmeriCorps are to communities like ours. We'll also be sharing ways that you can get involved and help amplify our message. Together, we can make sure that decision-makers hear the growing chorus of voices calling for continued investment in volunteerism and community service.

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CHAT PALS RECEIVES DONATION AT PROJECT GIVE'S SPRING FLING



Project Give's recent fundraiser, Spring Fling, was held on May 6, and Greater Cleveland Volunteers was the partner charity, receiving a \$3,500 donation in support of Chat Pals. Over 30 people attended the annual event at Breezewood Garden & Gifts in Chagrin Falls. GCV Executive Director, Kevin Gross, and Program Director, Kirsten Frei-Herrmann, were on hand to accept the check. Thank you to Project Give for your support of Chat Pals and Greater Cleveland Volunteers!

ENCORE EXPO DRAWS RETIREES FOR THEIR NEXT CHAPTER



On May 7, several Encore Cleveland nonprofit agencies gathered at the Cuyahoga County Public Library's Garfield Heights branch to meet with retirees and soon-to-be-retirees about their "encore" chapter. Encore Cleveland is a network of organizations within NE Ohio who offer various opportunities for people aged 50 or better, ranging from volunteering and mentoring to job opportunities, arts & culture, entrepreneurship, and more.

Visit www.encorecleveland.org for more information or call 216-391-9032.

VOLUNTEERS PLAY CRITICAL ROLES IN NONPROFITS' CAPACITY BUILDING

Nonprofit organizations are asked to meet so many community needs but often lack the resources they need. These organizations are a cornerstone of Cuyahoga County, contributing nearly one-third of the county's total gross domestic product (GDP). With nearly 16,000 nonprofits operating in the region, they play a crucial role in providing essential services such as human services, education, community and economic development, philanthropy, and healthcare.

By assisting with Donations Management, volunteers can assist with tracking, organizing, and acknowledging donations, ensuring that nonprofits can leverage every contribution to its fullest potential. Volunteers also assist in sorting and processing donated items that allow the agencies to further their capacity. These donations help provide much needed resources to clients as well as provide funding.

In addition, they also serve in administrative roles and other capacity building activities that allow organizations to improve overall reach or improve their effectiveness in fulfilling their mission.



CAPACITY BUILDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Donation Management: receiving, sorting and distributing donations such as clothing, food, medical supplies, and household goods or volunteering as a blood donor ambassador.

Resource Development and Fundraising: Set Up/Break Down, greeting guests, registration, 5K route support, refreshments, raffle sales, and festival support.

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.

UPCOMING EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Spring Fling Fiesta: Bring joy and an awesome experience to people with disabilities by helping at a Spring Fling Fiesta, on Saturday, June 28th from 3-9:00 p.m. in Lakewood. Volunteers will assist as greeters/host, photobooth and at food tables. Free parking, snacks and beverages. Casual dress, bright colors preferred and wear your dancing shoes!

ABTA 2025 Cleveland BT5K: Support critical funding for brain tumor research and patient services on Saturday, July 26th at Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field in Chagrin Falls from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Volunteer at this 5k with set up, at the start/finish line or as a course marshal. Free parking, snacks, beverages and T-shirt. Dress comfortably for the weather and comfortable shoes suggested.

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