

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

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Advocating for Volunteerism—Together



April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, a time for us to pause and recognize the incredible impact of those who give their time, talents, and compassion to strengthen our communities. At Greater Cleveland Volunteers, we are deeply grateful for everyone who serves, whether formally through an organization or informally by helping a neighbor, supporting a family member, or stepping up when it matters most. Volunteerism is the backbone of a strong, connected community, and its power deserves to be celebrated not just this month, but all year long.

One of the most meaningful ways to honor that impact is to ensure volunteerism continues to thrive into the future. That's why, this June, Greater Cleveland Volunteers will be in Washington, D.C. meeting with

elected officials to advocate for the funding and support that make volunteer programs possible. These investments help mobilize volunteers, strengthen nonprofit organizations, and expand services to those who need them most. However, we cannot carry this message alone. Real change happens when our entire community raises its voice.

In the weeks leading up to our visit, we're asking for your help to amplify this message. Advocacy doesn't have to be complicated, and some of the most powerful actions are simple and personal. Consider sharing your volunteer story or why service matters to you. Think about how you can encourage a friend or colleague to get involved.

Save the Date: **Cleveland Pickle Fest®** is back this year for its 8th year! Pickle Pup Pageant, Pickle Eating Contests, 5K Race, amazing vendors and more!
October 3rd, 2026 on Mall C in downtown Cleveland!

Visit **clevelandpicklefest.com** for more info and to purchase your tickets. All proceeds support Greater Cleveland Volunteers and all of our programs, connecting you with opportunities to serve.



Greater Cleveland Volunteers is funded in part by AmeriCorps Seniors

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One of the most impactful steps you can take is reaching out to your elected officials to express your support for volunteer programs and nonprofit infrastructure like AmeriCorps, programs that are critical to GCV and service organizations nationwide. You can also make a direct impact by volunteering or making a donation, of time, talent, or resources, to organizations like GCV that mobilize volunteers and support critical services in our community.



Together, we can elevate the importance of volunteerism and ensure it remains a priority for our leaders and our communities. Thank you for all that you do and for helping us carry this message forward. We are deeply grateful for this community and remain committed to advocating for the resources that volunteers deserve.

AARP Foundation President Visits Cleveland

The AARP Foundation is a longstanding partner of GCV through our management of the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program here in Cleveland. Last month, we were proud to welcome Claire Casey, President, AARP Foundation, and her

delegation to Cleveland last month to show off our amazing Experience Corps volunteers. Claire and her team witnessed firsthand the impact our volunteers are having as they sat in on a literacy tutoring session at Tremont Montessori School. Afterwards, the AARP Foundation hosted an appreciation event in Cleveland to celebrate all of the volunteers that participate in these programs. It was wonderful to spend time with the AARP Foundation team. We are very grateful for their ongoing partnership.



Upcoming Event Opportunities

Margaritaville Bash (Greater Cleveland Volunteers): Join the celebration by greeting the attendees, offering food samples or helping with raffle sales on Thursday, April 30th from 2:30-6 p.m. in Westlake. Time will be available to enjoy the Margaritaville themed fun, entertaining and educational event for 50+ adults. Free parking.

Head for the Cure (Head for the Cure): Support Cleveland Brain Cancer Survivors and Caregivers, plus vital research, and programs by volunteering at the Head for the Cure 5K at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Sunday, May 17th from 6-10am. Help is requested for set up/break down, registration, refreshments and finish line volunteers. Volunteers will receive free parking, snacks, beverages, and entry to the Zoo. A T-shirt will be provided; comfortable dress and shoes are suggested.

CLE VisionWalk (Foundation Fighting Blindness): Help raise funds and bring awareness to Foundation Fighting Blindness by volunteering at the CLE VisionWalk on Saturday, May 9th from 7am-12:30pm at Edgewater Park. Volunteers will be assisting with Set up, registration, t-shirt/refreshment distribution, walk route monitors, and the kid's zone. Free parking, snacks, beverages and swag. T-shirt provided, comfortable shoes suggested.

Visit greaterclevols.vsyslive.com for volunteer opportunities or contact Nancy Dzurnak at contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x2123 for more information.

