

# Greater Cleveland Volunteers

Connecting you with opportunities to serve

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## Great Lakes Tapped as Beer Sponsor of Cleveland Pickle Fest®

Exciting news! Great Lakes Brewing Co. has been named the official beer sponsor of this year's Cleveland Pickle Fest®. Join us on **Saturday, October 3, 2026**, on Mall C in Downtown Cleveland for a variety of Great Lakes brews, including an exclusive pickle beer, food, live music, pickle eating contests, a Pickle Pup Pageant, a kid's zone, and more. Be sure to also register for the inaugural Cleveland Pickle Fest® 5K. All festival proceeds support Greater Cleveland Volunteers and its programs.

Visit [clevelandpicklefest.com](http://clevelandpicklefest.com) for more information and to purchase your festival tickets.



Greater Cleveland Volunteers is an AmeriCorps Seniors grantee and receives funds through their RSVP program.

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## GCV Invites Partner Agencies to Networking Event

Greater Cleveland Volunteers was proud to host a Partner Agency Networking Event in May. Representatives from 12 nonprofit partners that collaborate with Greater Cleveland Volunteers attended the gathering on May 12 at the GCV office in Downtown Cleveland.

The informal event was an opportunity to connect, learn and share ideas with peers across the nonprofit community in Cuyahoga County. GCV Program Director Kirsten Frei-Herrmann, Program Manager Nancy Dzurnak and Partnership/Chat Pals Coordinator Kirsten Riley led the discussion. The group shared best practices and discussed common challenges when it comes to volunteer engagement.

Frei-Herrmann, Dzurnak and Riley highlighted Greater Cleveland Volunteers' impact and successes over the past year, and they also previewed some exciting plans for 2026, including two community-wide Volunteer Fairs planned for this fall.

The event proved to be the perfect forum to exchange ideas, gain new insights, and connect with others doing meaningful work in the community. Thank you to all of our valued partner agencies who were able to join GCV for this networking opportunity.



## Welcome to Our New Partner Agencies



WE THRIVE TOGETHER

The mission of We Thrive Together is to reduce social isolation and loneliness by giving people the opportunity to have fun, meet awesome people and make new friends. Since the beginning of the pandemic, We Thrive Together has hosted over 6,000 virtual programs, including games, classes, virtual trips, advocacy training, educational presentations, discussion groups, and more.

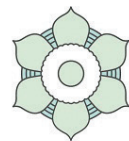


ROCKY RIVER  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
TWICE BLESSED  
FREE STORE

It's all about the story! The Twice Blessed Free Store, an agency of Rocky River United Methodist Church, is an outreach ministry that provides clothing, household items and toiletries free of charge to families in need. Volunteers help as shopping assistants, restockers and greeters.



The mission of the Maple Heights Department of Human Services is to identify and address the unmet needs of persons who reside within the City of Maple Heights. The department is especially sensitive to those families, individuals, older persons, and disabled residents disadvantaged by virtue of impairment, economic need, discrimination, abuse/neglect, or being isolated regardless of race, religion, gender, or ethnicity. Volunteer drivers are needed to deliver meals to residents.



L A K E V I E W  
CEMETERY *Foundation*

The Lake View Cemetery Foundation works to ensure the beauty of Lake View Cemetery's historically and architecturally significant buildings, monuments and gardens will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The Foundation also provides educational outreach programs to benefit and enrich the community.



The Herps Alive Foundation is a public charity dedicated to saving, rehabilitating and caring for unwanted, neglected and abused reptiles and amphibians and to finding new homes for them when possible, with an emphasis on educating the public. Volunteers are needed to assist with general animal care, client services, and equipment and supply cleaning.

## New Partner Agencies Continued



Stay curious! The goal of the Great Lakes Science Center is to make science, technology, engineering and math come alive. The center's vision is a community where all people value science, technology, engineering and math to inform decision-making and enrich lives.



Meals on Wheels provides hot meals to Strongsville residents living at home who have limited mobility or access or who are recovering from a hospital stay and cannot prepare their own meals. Altenheim Senior Living operates the program in conjunction with the Strongsville Women's League.

## Upcoming Event Opportunities

**Wings of Wonder (Kids in Flight):** Offer your time and talent for a nonprofit that uses aviation-related activities and airplane rides to give children with serious illnesses and their families the opportunity to escape by soaring above the crises, complications and struggles. This year's event takes place on Saturday, June 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Burke Lakefront Airport. Volunteers will assist in the hospitality tent and with crafts and activities.

**Cleveland BorderLight Festival (Cleveland BorderLight Festival):** Be a part of presenting innovative theater that inspires, builds cross-cultural understanding, and celebrates the diversity of the human experience. The 2026 Cleveland BorderLight Festival will be held in the Playhouse Square District from Wednesday, July 8 to Saturday, July 11. Volunteers are needed in various three- to four-hour shifts to welcome guests and serve as ushers.

**Parrot Head Run (Fostering Hope Ohio):** Calling all Parrot Heads! Join the team on Saturday, July 18 from 9-11 a.m. in The Flats to shine a light on youth in foster care and residential treatment. Volunteers are needed to assist as a course marshall.

Visit [greaterclevo.org/volunteer](https://greaterclevo.org/volunteer) to learn more about these great volunteer opportunities and others throughout Cuyahoga County. Contact Program Manager Nancy Dzurnak at [contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](mailto:contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org) or 216-391-9500 x2123 for additional information.