Greater Cleveland Volunteers
Connecting you with opportunities to serve

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Help children learn to love reading!

Do you enjoy reading? Are you a lifelong learner? Would you like to make a lasting impact on the life of a child? Greater Cleveland Volunteers is currently recruiting volunteers for its AARP Foundation Experience Corps program.

You'll work one-on-one with children in grades 1-4 in Cleveland and Euclid schools to support their reading skills and improve their literacy. Together, we can help guide the next generation of readers!

For more information or to apply, visit **bit.ly/GCVExpCorps**.



Greater Cleveland Volunteers is an AmeriCorps Seniors grantee and receives funds through their RSVP program.
The views expressed in this newsletter are the author's and do not represent AmeriCorps.

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GCV Announces First-Ever Volunteer Fairs This Fall



For the first time, Greater Cleveland Volunteers is hosting two Volunteer Fairs this October. These fairs are designed to serve as one-stop shops that will allow guests to talk with representatives from dozens of nonprofits all in one space. Attendees will be able to explore GCV partner agencies and speak with representatives from more than 20 nonprofits at each fair. A variety of sectors will be represented, including hunger, disaster relief, social services and older adult services, health, housing, education and youth empowerment, and more.

Those in attendance will also get the chance to meet staff members from Greater Cleveland Volunteers and learn more about its volunteer programs that help strengthen the community, including AARP Foundation Experience Corps, Chat Pals, and AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP.

"Volunteering is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen our community and create positive change," said Kirsten Frei-Herrmann, program director at Greater Cleveland Volunteers. "Whether you're interested in helping at community events, supporting youth programs, assisting seniors, improving neighborhoods, promoting health and wellness, or lending your skills to a cause you care about, the Volunteer Fairs will offer something for everyone."

The first Volunteer Fair will take place on Wednesday, October 14 from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road. The second Volunteer Fair will be held on Thursday, October 22 from 10 a.m.-noon at the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Library, 1876 S. Green Road.

Sign up to attend a GCV Volunteer Fair for free by visiting **bit.ly/VolunteerFairsGCV.**

AARP Foundation Experience Corps Hosts Kickoff



Greater Cleveland Volunteers welcomed the AARP Foundation Experience Corps team in September for its official kickoff meeting. Over the course of this school year, these volunteers will work one-on-one with students in first through fourth grade in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Euclid City Schools, helping them build confidence, strengthen their literacy skills, and develop a lifelong love of reading.

The Experience Corps program currently operates in 18 communities across the United States, including right here in Northeast Ohio. Volunteers typically serve two days a week for approximately two hours each day. Through one-on-one tutoring sessions, students become better readers, improve their literacy skills, and gain much-needed confidence to continue their educational journey.

And it's not just the students who are impacted by this experience. Our volunteers report feeling a renewed sense of purpose and satisfaction by contributing in a meaningful way to their communities. Best of all, training and ongoing support are provided. The program is a proven "triple win," helping students to succeed, older adults to thrive, and communities to grow stronger.

Here's to a great school year!

Interested in making a difference for local elementary students? Learn more and apply to become a volunteer today at bit.ly/GCVExpCorps or call 216-391-9500 x2119.

GCV Welcomes Two New Partner Agencies

Thrive for Change's mission is to promote health, hope and healing for individuals at risk of overdose and their loved ones through education, collaboration, advocacy and direct service. Their vision is a world free from drug overdose fatalities. Volunteers are needed to prepare harm reduction kits for distribution to reduce drug overdoses in the community.

Meals on Wheels Cleveland West combats food insecurity and social isolation while supporting independence, health and wellness, and living with dignity for all. Volunteers help cook, prepare and deliver a variety of tasty, nutritious meals to home-bound residents in Cleveland's far west suburbs.

Upcoming Event Opportunities

OB StreetFest: OB StreetFest is a celebration of the people, places and spaces that make the Old Brooklyn neighborhood unique. This year's event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., with volunteer opportunities available in 2-hour shifts. Volunteers will play an important role by assisting with event setup and breakdown, supporting beer garden operations, providing information to attendees, and helping at the swag table.

Pickle in the Land: Join us as a volunteer for Pickle in the Land 2026, taking place Thursday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 8 in Downtown Cleveland. Help create a positive experience for participants and guests by assisting with event registration, supporting awards presentations, and serving as basket runners during tournament activities. This is a great opportunity to be part of a premier pickleball event, meet new people, and contribute to a fun and energetic atmosphere.

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. Assistance is needed with moving furniture and sales floor help. Three shifts are available on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8:30 a.m.-noon or 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 6 from noon-3 p.m.

Visit **greaterclevols.vsyslive.com** to learn more about these great volunteer opportunities and others throughout Cuyahoga County. Contact Program Manager Nancy Dzurnak at contact@greaterclevelandvolunteers.org or 216-391-9500 x2123 for additional information.