

# Meeting Community Needs in Ohio

Last year more than 9,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds met local needs, strengthened communities, and expanded economic opportunity through national service in Ohio.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) invested more than

\$26.2 million to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower citizens to solve problems. AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers are preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting veterans to services, fighting the opioid epidemic, helping seniors live independently, and rebuilding communities after disasters.

Service members volunteered at more than 1,300 locations across Ohio, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veteran's facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

Through a unique public-private partnership, CNCS, its grantees, and project sponsors generated more than \$16.9 million in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in FY 2017. This local support strengthened community impact and increased the return on taxpayer dollars.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.

There are many volunteering opportunities in Northeast Ohio. When considering where to go most individuals turn to their local hospital, school system, library and food pantries.



Joy Banish, executive director of Greater Cleveland Volunteers agrees that sometimes the “most obvious” nonprofit organization is the first thought, but there are many more opportunities.

“We are partnered with 100+ nonprofit agencies in Cuyahoga County and the tasks vary from helping the homeless and providing

support to seniors to improving the environment and assisting in nonprofit offices.”

In 2017, Greater Cleveland Volunteers served more than 2,300 volunteers who contributed 124,428 service hours.

Some volunteers prefer an on-going assignment.

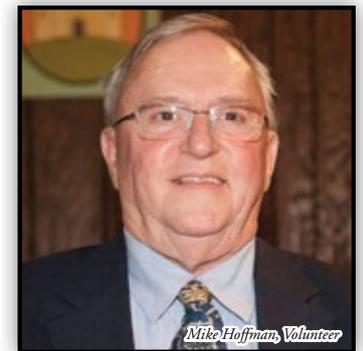
Fran Cort walks to Fairhill Partners in Cleveland to volunteer five days a week and works from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Fairhill Partners connects people to opportunities for lifelong learning, intergenerational relationships, and successful aging.

She calls her list of duties “fluid” and the hours fly by. It is impressive: she works the front desk meeting and greeting people, answers the phone, does billing, manages marketing projects, constructs the activity guide, schedules activities, designs web pages, trains new volunteers and orders supplies. Fran sees the need for something to be done, then goes and does it.

Fairhill Partners is a place where Fran's career skills have translated perfectly to her retirement passion.

As a Friendly Visitor for Hospice of the Western Reserve, Mike observed there were not many men who were providing volunteer support to other men.

He researched and became certified as a Hands On Care Volunteer, which provides extra support to male



patients who prefer a male to assist with hygiene-related tasks. Mike helps in the patient's homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. His flexibility and versatility work well with diverse populations and personalities. He has a positive impact on a multitude of patients and families.

Mike is enthusiastic about his ongoing volunteerism, "The variety of volunteer tasks provides me a way to be involved with people I care about (the elderly) and the arts that I love. I tell my friends that there are some great folks out there that I would have never gotten the opportunity to meet if I had not volunteered."

Margaret Burik has been volunteering as a pianist for 11 years at the Cuyahoga County Adult Activity Center in Rocky River, a program through Cuyahoga County Board of Development Disabilities.

A piano teacher by profession, Margaret volunteers her skills at the Activities Center once a week for listening pleasure and to accompany their choir who conducts performances in Northeast Ohio.

The piano is how Margaret expresses herself and how she delivers that measure of therapy to the choir. "Music is a language unto itself," she says, "you can put it into sound, into instruments."

When a person is hesitant about making an on-going volunteering commitment Joy Banish explains that there are many special event (or one-time) opportunities. "There are needs for individuals to set up at an event, take admission tickets, register attendees, distribute literature, serve refreshments and more."

Barbara Tate finds more enjoyment with these requests.



Margaret Burik, Volunteer



Barbara Tate, Volunteer

"I've met about a million different people during my years volunteering. People of all different backgrounds, races and personalities. I know that without volunteering I wouldn't have had the chance to interact with so many wonderful people."

"To me volunteering is paying it forward. When I volunteer, I see, feel, hear and know that I'm helping others. I see the smiles on their faces; I hear their gratitude for whatever assistance I have given. I find all of this is so fulfilling. I enjoy volunteering, I think it's my calling in life."

To discover more volunteering opportunities in Cuyahoga County contact Greater Cleveland Volunteers at 216-391-9500 x 116 or [greaterclevelandvolunteers.org](http://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org).



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## Greater Cleveland Volunteers

Connecting you with opportunities to serve



### Helping the community:

- Providing disaster relief services
- Assisting at local hunger centers
- Mentoring adults and children
- Executing office-related needs
- Serving as friendly visitors to patients



Phone: 216-391-9500 x 116

[greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/encore](http://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/programs/encore)

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