



VOLUNTEERS HONORED!

First, we would like to say, “Thank You” to all of our volunteers for the endless time and commitment you continue to give to our community. It was with gratitude and pleasure that Mayor Patterson, City Council, City staff, Mary Lou and I were able to honor you on November 5, 2015 at our 36th annual volunteer luncheon. The luncheon was wonderful— with great food supplied by Kohler’s. If you were

unable to attend, we hope you will join us next year. This year we celebrated our “Superheroes”– City of Kettering Volunteers! Certificates and/or gifts were awarded to over 100 volunteers in attendance.



This is a good time to remind all of our volunteers to make sure your volunteer hours are being recorded.

Message from the Mayor



Donald E. Patterson
 Mayor

“I say this all the time, but it is worth repeating — thank you.” I have overwhelming pride representing such a wonderful city with so many truly caring and giving volunteers. I am constantly amazed at the number of people who give their time and talent to help our community. It truly is the best place to live, work and play. You are an inspiration to all of us at the City.



36th Annual Volunteer Luncheon

Every year, when it is time for our luncheon, we receive questions from our volunteers concerning the hours they have accumulated. It is your responsibility to be sure the volunteer office receives your hours. You can enter your hours in the volunteer books located at CIL, the police department or the volunteer office. Or you can call us at 296-2433 or e-mail Mary Lou at marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org. We recommend you turn in your hours once a month. Many of our staff members turn in the hours for their volunteers every month and that is fine. Please make sure someone is recording your hours. We don’t want to miss anyone when it comes time for recognition.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT PAID – NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE PRICELESS!



Kettering Mayor & Council

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VOLUNTEERS

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VOLUNTEER KETTERING is published quarterly by the City of Kettering to keep our volunteers informed of issues, developments and opportunities pertaining to the Volunteer Program. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the City of Kettering, ATTN: Volunteer Office, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429.

Annual Report Highlights

The volunteer program statistics are below; you can see firsthand the impressive figures. We are very proud of your accomplishments. The program has grown and expanded over the past 36 years to meet the needs of the City—and it is still growing! We have more volunteers, more services and more hours than ever—and it wouldn't have been possible without you! After all, we are "THE CITY OF VOLUNTEERS"—THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Number of Volunteers 1,056
Hours Contributed 34,342
Value of Services \$744,206

Years 1979 – 2015
\$19,992,120 saved!

*Is it any wonder we are
the envy of other communities?*

CHRISTMAS DAY OPEN HOUSE AT POLEN FARM



Bill and Marynel Bradley

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that helped with our annual Christmas Day event at Polen Farm. Hundreds of guests enjoyed refreshments, Christmas carols, a train display, Santa Claus and friendship. This event made it possible for many folks to spend the holiday with others instead of spending it alone. A special "thank you" to Bill and Marynel Bradley (co-chairs) for their commitment, dedication, leadership and tireless effort put forth over the years. The Bradley's will be stepping down as co-chairs of this event. We thank them for offering to share their expertise with our 2016 co-chairs, Tom and Doris Condrón.

INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

There are deductions you are allowed for volunteer service if you itemize using Form 1040 on your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return. Unreimbursed expenses while volunteering, that are deductible, include automobile mileage to and from your volunteer job, bus fare, parking fees, long distance calls, postage, uniforms and supplies. These deductions apply to your volunteer work for other places as well as the City.

The Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center will be taking reservations for income tax assistance. This service is free and available to seniors 60 and older, or if you are low income. Appointments are limited to one hour per client. Therefore, you must have all your forms, receipts and information ready and in order when you come in. Please call the tax hotline at 296-2480 to schedule your appointment.

Thanks so much to Bob Ellis and his awesome team of volunteers! Because of the dedication and commitment of these volunteers, nearly 2,000 tax returns will be prepared at the Lathrem Senior Center making the Center one of the largest tax assistance sites in the state! Way to go!



WINTER CHALLENGES

Winter is here and we want to ensure all of our volunteers stay safe. Please use good judgment during the snow, ice or extreme cold. **It is the policy of the volunteer office for you to stay inside when the weather is nasty. Do not come in to volunteer!** We need your assistance all year long, so please do not risk your health this winter by coming to volunteer during days of inclement weather!



KEEPING FIT

If you think like the majority of American people, after the holidays is the time to start your fitness program. The volunteer office can help you! Take advantage of KEEP (Kettering Employee Exercise Program). This program offers City employees and volunteers the opportunity to improve their personal health through exercise at a reduced cost. Volunteers who have contributed 100 hours of service and are currently volunteering are eligible for a 20% discount on the following fitness options: annual fitness room pass; seasonal pool pass; seasonal skate pass; annual aerobics pass; annual/seasonal combination pass or drop-in gym pass.

If you are interested in KEEP, please call the volunteer office, at 296-2433 for a letter of eligibility to take to the Kettering Recreation Complex before purchasing your pass.

GOOD-BYE FROM BONNIE



If you didn't attend the volunteer luncheon, you missed my announcement: I will be retiring on February 29. I would like to thank all of you for making this the best job a person could ask for—in fact, most of the time, I didn't feel like I was working but accomplishing worthy undertakings with my friends. I truly appreciate the kindness you have shown me. You gave of yourself to me—you gave the gift of enthusiasm, time and energy with respect and love. I would absolutely say I received much more from this relationship than I gave. I will look back to my 16 years in this position and my 29 years with the City with gratitude and wonderful memories. I entered a profession dedicated to helping others, and as I leave it, I will take you with me. I will be back as a volunteer so if you have time in the next few months stop in to say "see you soon." Now to quote Winnie the Pooh, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good-bye so hard."

I'm very excited to introduce to you the next City of Kettering Volunteer Administrator—my friend, my confidante, my advisor, my side-kick in crime, someone who is going to take our volunteer program to new heights—Mary Lou Randolph!

volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteer receptionists are needed in the different departments within the City. You would be called as needed for the various departments. Most of the assignments are a two-hour commitment and involve greeting visitors and answering the phones. What a great way to get out of the house and meet new people!
- During the months of January through April the City of Kettering tax department will rely on many volunteers to assist in opening and sorting mail and greeting the public when they come in to pay their taxes. These shifts are normally 2 to 3 hours. Volunteers can work one shift or multiple shifts. We'll work with your schedule!
- Looking for something to do this summer? Why not consider volunteering at Frazee Pavilion? Shifts are 2 to 3 hours. Volunteers are asked to work 6 to 8 shows, depending on the number of shows and the number of volunteers. Volunteers must be able to stand 2 to 3 hours and must be able to endure all types of weather.
- Volunteers are needed to scan documents. This position requires 2 to 3 hours a week.
- We are looking for volunteers to serve on our Neighborhood Pride Committee. This is an excellent opportunity for previous Neighborhood Pride winners, current volunteers and Master Gardeners to get involved in our neighborhoods. Volunteers will assist in reviewing nominations and judging properties to be awarded in June, July and August. Positions require 3 to 4 hours a month. What a wonderful way to help accent some of our well-kept properties in Kettering!

If you are interested in learning more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please call the volunteer office at 296-2433.

You're invited to attend a **Farewell Open House** in honor of **Bonnie Pittl** **Thursday, March 3** in the Trent Arena Lobby from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. *Please stop by as we wish her well in her retirement!*