



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — WINTER 2022



## Message from the Mayor

Dear Volunteers:

On November 2, 2021, I received one of the greatest honors of my life when Kettering residents entrusted me to become

their 11th Mayor. I will continually strive to be worthy of that honor with gratitude, humility and unabashed advocacy for the Kettering community.

As a resident and now Mayor, the health and livelihood of our city remains paramount. I am thrilled to work alongside dedicated City staff and City Council members to continue offering quality services and staying progressive. I am looking forward to working with our greatest resource—our volunteers—as well.

It is no surprise that I have enormous shoes to fill as Don Patterson demonstrated 16 years of impeccable leadership in his role as Mayor in addition to 8 years as a member of City Council. The initiatives and plans he implemented made Kettering the city

to emulate. Under his leadership, we grew one of the most valuable volunteer programs in our region, if not the nation. His work to improve the vitality of Wilmington Pike, the beauty and function of our parks, the building and renovations of public safety facilities, the revitalization of neighborhood, redevelopment of business parks and the strengthening of infrastructure will forever be rich pieces of his legacy. But, four small words were the driving force behind everything he did. And, he offered those four words as sage advice to me--Listen to the people.

With your help, I intend to do just that. As volunteers, you are the stakeholders of this community. Your concerns, ideas and kudos are important factors in achieving successful results; and I look forward to hearing what you have to say. So, allow me to break the ice and introduce myself. I have lived in Kettering for most of my adult life with my husband, Jim. We raised five Kettering kids and are proud we chose to live here. I served three terms

as an at-large City Council member, have likely spoken with many of you in the past and look forward to continued conversations. I served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate.

As your Mayor, I will continue to uphold quality service, spectacular amenities, sound infrastructure and economic development. Seeing what the City of Kettering has been doing to help people--renters, landlords, homebuyers and homeowners--who are feeling the negative impacts of COVID reconfirmed that my decision to run for Mayor was the right one. As you get to know me, whether it's through these publications, at the grocery store or at community events, I hope you feel welcome, eager for productive, positive dialogue and know that you are in good hands.

I'm listening. And, I am grateful to be part of such a talented, selfless team.

Thank you for your service.

Mayor Peggy Lehner

## Winter is Beautiful—Until it's Not!

There's nothing prettier than looking out a window to see a blanket of white snow coating every surface, until you realize you'll have to get out, scrape your car, and avoid traffic accidents and backups. If you're scheduled to volunteer and the snow and ice are too treacherous for you to travel, please call us at 937-296-2433 to cancel your volunteer commitment. Your safety is our priority!



 Kettering is home to Volunteer Spirit

# Volunteers Make the World a Brighter Place!

We were delighted to honor our volunteers in person this fall on November 18! The event was made available as a hybrid, offering two ways for volunteers to celebrate. From 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., volunteers were able to drive through and pick up a hot boxed lunch, thank you gift, and safely interact with Mayor Patterson, members of City Council, and City Staff. At noon, volunteers attending in person enjoyed a traditional roast turkey lunch, and Mayor Patterson awarded certificates and gifts to volunteers based on the number of hours contributed since they began volunteering for the City's program. Despite limited opportunities due to the pandemic, 316 volunteers were

still able to contribute 6,352 hours of service, saving the City \$166,543! Fabulous door prizes were also given away thanks to the generosity of local business owners!

All volunteers were invited to donate personal care items to Kettering Clean Care, dedicated to providing basic toiletry items to children in need in our community. Three large – and very heavy – boxes filled with a variety of items were gratefully accepted!

We look forward to offering more volunteer opportunities in 2022, and thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the City of Kettering!



## Christmas Day at Polen Farm Returns!



This Kettering Tradition, like so many events, was cancelled in 2020. However, with a little creativity, hard work, and adaptability, our Christmas Day Volunteer Team made this event not only happen, but flourish – providing a warm and welcoming location for members of our community to celebrate the spirit of the season together. Guests enjoyed a warm meal, holiday music and caroling, Christmas

cookies, a train display, coloring fun, free book store, and photos with Santa! For those uncomfortable with interacting indoors, a special drive thru was offered complete with smiling faces, and holiday treat bags. Our sincere thanks to the more than 50 volunteers who gave their time to plan, set-up, deliver, and clean up an event that embodies the true meaning of Christmas! A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our community partners who help keep this event at no cost for our guests:

- Day Air Credit Union
- Kohler Catering
- Cheryl's Cookies
- Marc's
- MCL Restaurant and bakery
- Mary Ann Dodaro
- Mayor Donald E. Patterson
- Mikesell's
- Montgomery County Environmental Services



# Make A Difference Day Success

For decades, **National Make A Difference Day** has successfully encouraged the involvement of individuals in being actively engaged as change makers in their communities.

The City of Kettering is proud to participate in this annual event, held the fourth Saturday in October. This year, 68 volunteers came together to plant 115 red oak seedlings donated by Cox Arboretum, and removed invasive honeysuckle from the trails at the Habitat Environment Center. Volunteers also helped create holiday greeting cards to be distributed throughout the world to our active duty military through Blue Star



Mothers. A total of 75 hours were contributed from home by 37 volunteers who contributed 430 cards. At Christ Church United Methodist, a total of 68 hours were contributed by 25 volunteers to create another 44 holiday cards, as well as 44 place mats distributed to area nursing homes.

A total of 130 volunteers of all ages, representing 12 organizations came together to donate 382 hours of time! This generosity improved the health of our outdoor environment for all to enjoy, and their creativity enlightened the lives of others locally and globally!



## Volunteers Needed!

With increasing demand, the Lathrem Center is in need of volunteers to work as Transportation Services Dispatchers and Drivers. Dispatchers work with members by phone to schedule rides within the service area. Dispatch volunteers are needed between the hours of 8 – 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Volunteer drivers are responsible for transporting members to scheduled appointments. Drivers are most regularly needed between 8 a.m. – Noon Monday through Friday. Transportation vehicles are sedans or mini vans, so no special class of driver's license is required. If you enjoy chatting and interacting with a variety of individuals, one of these positions may be a great opportunity for you!

The spring and summer months bring many opportunities to volunteer! These include greeting guests at Frazee Pavilion and assisting with our summer camps at Rosewood Arts Center and Habitat Environmental Center. There are also a variety of one-day events coming up this spring:

### Easter Events

April 8 – 10

Celebrate Easter and hide eggs for participants of all ages at a variety of events.

### TreeFest 2022

Saturday, April 16

9 a.m. – Noon

at the Habitat Environment Center Have fun planting trees while celebrating Earth Day!

If you're ready to get involved, call the Volunteer Office at (937) 296-2433 for additional details about these opportunities, or sign up online on our Opportunities Page at: [ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events/](http://ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events/)

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 17 – 23, 2022

Volunteers across our country will be recognized for the countless hours of service donated in an effort to improve the lives of others. Please watch your mail for information regarding the plans to celebrate our amazing volunteers at the upcoming Block Party at the Frazee this summer.





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## TAX SEASON IS APPROACHING!

But, that doesn't mean it needs to be a time to dread! If you enjoy helping with tax preparation, we are seeking volunteers to help at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center. If doing taxes makes you want to procrastinate to the fullest, the Lathrem Center will soon be taking reservations for income tax assistance. This service is free and available to individuals 50 and older who are unable to afford tax preparation services. Appointments are limited to one hour per client, meaning you must have all of your forms, receipts, and information ready and in order upon arrival. To take advantage of this opportunity, call the tax hotline at 937-296-2480 to schedule your appointment.

More good news: deductions are allowed for volunteer service if you itemize using Schedule A (Form 1040) on your 2021 Federal Income Tax Return. Unreimbursed, deductible volunteer expenses 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. Consult your tax advisor for specific details.

