



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — WINTER 2024

## WELCOME 2024!

### A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR LEHNER



Dear Volunteers:

Can you believe it? Another year has already come and gone! The New Year presents the opportunity to continue our involvement, as well as look to others and their service to the community for inspiration. I look forward to presenting the youth and adult Mayor's Awards for Volunteer Service in the spring. Organized and reviewed by the Kettering Volunteer

Advisory Council, I have the honor of giving these awards to the chosen recipients at the April 9 City Council meeting.

The purpose of the Mayor's Awards is to honor outstanding volunteers who are making valuable contributions to the Kettering community through volunteer service in a wide variety of categories such as health, recreation, arts, environment, education, public safety, civic service, or other human services. In order to qualify, a volunteer should either be a resident of Kettering, or the volunteer service should be performed in Kettering.

Through the years, many of you have received this title because your friends and fellow volunteers looked to you as the model for this award! If you know someone who stands out as an example of what Kettering's Volunteer Spirit looks like, take a few moments to nominate that person (or group of people). Applications will be accepted until March 11, and can be completed at [www.ketteringoh.org/mayors-award](http://www.ketteringoh.org/mayors-award) or in the Volunteer Office.

As always, thank you for your continued contributions, dedication, and positive energy you so graciously give to others!

May your 2024 be filled with joy and possibility!

Peggy Lehner, Kettering Mayor



## IS 2024 THE YEAR OF YOU?

New Year often comes with plans for self-improvement through personal fitness. If you have contributed over 100 hours of service and are currently volunteering, you 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. One of the best ways to stay consistent is to work out with a friend or family member – plus that post-workout coffee tastes so much better! Contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 for a letter of eligibility before visiting the Kettering Recreation Complex or the Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center.

If you're not quite to that 100 hour mark, or have been inactive for a while, contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433. We'd love to have you in for coffee and conversation to help match you with your next volunteer adventure!



# Kettering *is home* to Volunteer Spirit







## **VOLUNTEERING WEAVES US TOGETHER**

Another year of volunteer accomplishments in the books, and another delicious celebration! Our annual Volunteer Luncheon was celebrated Thursday, November 16 at the Presidential Banquet Center at noon. Our traditional Thanksgiving themed meal tasted even better knowing from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, 269 of you contributed 9,000 hours to the City of Kettering! On top of the time so generously given, many of you brought cold weather items to share with those in our community in need of these basic necessities. An impressive number of businesses also contributed door prizes this year to express their thanks for your contributions to our community!

A special thank you goes to the Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council for their help with the luncheon and all of the volunteer activities throughout the year. Their participation – like yours – is invaluable to the success of the Volunteer Program!



## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY: ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS!**

National Make A Difference Day has successfully encouraged the involvement of individuals and groups to be 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 on October 28, 88 volunteers created 850 holiday greeting cards for our troops serving overseas, several dozen holiday placemats, installed 55 new native shrubs and flowers in the rain garden at Van Buren Park,



and assisted homeowners with yard work in the South Van Buren Neighborhood. A total of 113 hours were contributed by individuals and a variety of organizations throughout our community.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and community partners, we were able to improve our environment, help our neighbors, and reach across the globe to our active duty men and women to bring holiday greetings from Kettering, Ohio!





# A New Holiday Tradition Was A Hit!

After many years at Polen Farm, the annual Christmas Day celebration moved to the Charles Lathrem Center. Curbside drop off, expanded parking, plenty of restrooms, more tables, and a full kitchen for cooking – all accessible without stairs – made guests more comfortable and provided space where food, games, music, and dancing could all happen in the same space.

Thanks to our team of 47 volunteers, guests were greeted, tables were decorated, games and activities were enjoyed, dinner and dessert

were served, and fun was had by all! Everyone enjoyed visiting with Santa and hearing new and classic songs throughout the day from DJ Jim.

We are also grateful to the following community partners for supporting this event: Day Air Credit Union, Mary Ann Dodaro, Don Patterson, and the Team at Frazee Pavilion.



## MEET THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT



Hi. My name is Lindsey Curry and if I seem like a familiar face to anyone, you may have seen me around the City of Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department as part of the Fitness team for the past 11 years. I'm very excited to be transitioning to the Assistant Volunteer Administrator position working alongside Dawn to create a vibrant and welcoming environment for returning and new volunteers. One of my strengths is relationship building and I look forward to meeting everyone and making sure our volunteers are connected with the best opportunities for their personal interests and abilities to support the city and our partners. Please drop by and say hi if you are near the Government Center.



## CITY OF KETTERING

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### CITY OF KETTERING

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## Tax Day is Around the Corner

After the fun of the holidays, most of us start thinking about the upcoming tax season. Luckily, if you are 50 or older and can't afford a tax preparation service, you can receive help. Starting Tuesday, January 8, you can call 937-296-2480 or 937-296-2587 to schedule an appointment between February 5 and April 11. Appointments are held at the Lathrem Senior Center located at 2900 Glengarry Dr., and are limited to one hour per client, and require you to have all your forms, receipts, and information ready and in order when you come in.

Did you know: deductions are allowed for volunteer service if you itemize using Schedule A (Form 1040) on your 2023 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.

