



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Recognizes SUNsational Volunteers

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, July 15, 2022– The Board of Lake County Commissioners and the Lake County Council on Aging honored the hundreds of volunteers that impact many Lake County non-profit agencies through their dedication of time and talent. Volunteers were honored at the annual recognition event and six special volunteers were recognized for their exceptional service as this year’s SUNsational volunteers. All volunteers are members of the Lake County Volunteer Network, formally RSVP, and a division of the Board of Commissioners, and the Lake County Council on Aging and serve in numerous roles throughout the county.

The Board of Commissioners recognized the SUNsational volunteers at the July 7, 2022, meeting. The volunteers were presented with a certificate of recognition during the meeting.

“The Board of Commissioners is honored to recognize these dedicated individuals for their service to others in need within our community,” said Commissioner John Hamercheck, President of the Board of Lake County Commissioners. “They donate their time and talents to benefit others without expecting anything in return.”

Volunteer awardees for the Lake County Volunteer Network include Fred Kramer, Diane Melsheimer, and Chris Palsa. Fred is a volunteer guardian with the Lifeline, Inc. Volunteer Guardian Program. He has served five individuals in the past four years. Fred is their voice when they cannot speak for themselves. He volunteers with immense heart and dedication to make sure they are well-taken care, no matter how big or how small the task.

Diane brings sunshine to everyone at the Lake County Prosecutor Victim Assistance Program. She is serving over 125 hours each month assisting victims and their advocates. Her focus is to remain upbeat and find the positive in difficult circumstances. She is also a Meals on Wheels volunteer for the Council on Aging.

Chris serves as team lead at the St. Gabriel Church Food Pantry senior box distribution. Her willingness to delegate, encourage, and enrich with a servant’s heart has brought a level of excellence that is exhibited weekly. She works weekends and evenings updating spreadsheets and even delivers food boxes to homebound seniors.

Volunteer awardees for the Lake County Council on Aging include Dave Henschel, Alice Hogan, and Arlene Sakach. Dave volunteers at the Mentor Meals on Wheels kitchen assisting with plating meals, packing bags, and managing supply inventory. He volunteers for extra shifts, trains new volunteers, and exhibits a positive attitude in all he does.

Alice works twice a week as a Meals on Wheels kitchen volunteer and drives a regular route each week. She is always willing to come in on short notice when an extra helping hand is needed. She is also a volunteer grocery shopper and delivers meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Arlene volunteers at the main office assisting with all the special events, mailings and many office duties. She has a tremendous creative gift and assists with making homemade cards for clients and raffle baskets for fundraising purposes. Her contribution has been diverse and she brings great joy to the office and the recipients of her cards.

“We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers serving with care and compassion. They are all deserving of this recognition for providing such essential services to the community,” said Commissioner Mark Tyler.

On Wednesday, July 13, 2022, the Lake County Volunteer Network and the Council on Aging hosted the SUNsational Volunteer Recognition event. The event was held at the Mentor Civic Amphitheater and included entertainment by The PopTarts and East Coast Custard ice cream. All volunteers were given a swag bag of items and tickets to win a variety of door prizes.

Top event sponsors were Laketran and Tapestry Wickliffe Senior Living. Helping Hand sponsors included Suit Yourself, Inc., Hospice of the Western Reserve, and Advanced Audiology. Many partner non-profit agencies participated and made signs thanking volunteers.

“Lake County is a special place because of people like these selfless volunteers who go above and beyond for their neighbors,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “We extend a genuine thank you for all you have done, and all you will do in the future.”

The Lake County Volunteer Network assists individuals interested in volunteering with finding a meaningful volunteer assignment. For more information about volunteering in Lake County, contact Volunteer Services Coordinator, Cristen Kane at 440-350-5360 or email cristen.kane@lakecountyohio.gov.

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