

2008 Most Treasured Volunteers



Community Solutions wishes to honor the following volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Northeast Ohio community. Thank you to these and **all** volunteers!

1



Patricia Cole gives more than 100 hours per year to her volunteer mission at Hattie Larlham. This is remarkable, not only because she is only 23 years old, but because she is living with Asperger's Syndrome, a disorder with autistic-like behaviors and difficulty in socializing with strangers. Patricia

focuses her energy on helping others as a resident companion and autism playgroup assistant. She also reaches out to make other volunteers feel welcome, comfortable, and capable. She is a wonderful example of how caring people will not allow their own challenges to keep them from helping others.



5



Dani Altieri Marinucci saw a tremendous need for parents to come together to address escalating problems faced by youth in her city. So she made it happen. She began by offering parents programs on underage drinking, Internet safety, dating, family communication, and other topics. Her efforts grew and expanded to become the Westlake

Parent Connection and the Parent to Parent Network. Today, parents and organizations from 25 cities in three counties participate in discussing issues, seeking solutions, and giving a voice to parents facing the problems of risky behaviors by our community's children.



2



Rick Eberts is a professional engineer and trainer who helps find solutions to homelessness. As one major step, he created and facilitates a six-week Housing Readiness Program at the Lakeside Men's Shelter of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. In designing the program, Rick used feedback from clients and researched shelters in

Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York to understand their strengths and see how people in Cleveland might benefit from them. Rick now teaches the kinds of skills that people need to truly recover from homelessness and be successful as they move into a new phase of their lives.



4



For more than 11 years, **Jerome Roberts** has responded to hundreds of house and apartment fires, compassionately and effectively helping disaster victims. He jumps in and volunteers for extra duties when he hears of a special need, not needing to be asked. His expertise, in turn, benefits thousands of others as he spends

many hours mentoring new disaster volunteers, providing them invaluable hands-on experience and patient coaching. In addition, he carries his "safety first" motto into action by caring for Red Cross disaster vans and other vehicles, ensuring that they are ready and waiting when needed.



3



High school sophomore **Kristen Hord** spends her free time befriending and helping young people who have physical disabilities. Whether she is partnered with an energetic and boy-crazy 13-year-old girl or a high school freshman who is unable to speak or eat by himself, Kristen demonstrates an extraordinary level of comfort, maturity, and

compassion. In addition, she helps train other volunteers, serves as a representative at special events, and attends meetings with foundations and corporations to seek funding. To top it off, Kristen recently accepted the nomination as student intern on the Board of Directors.



6



Two days each week for 14 years, **Art Walters** has offered warm assistance and empathy to people seeking clothing and household goods at the West Side Catholic Center. He also helps them learn to read and write. Sensitive to each person's needs—as well as their feelings and how they may have been treated by others—he never fails to treat each

person with dignity and respect. In addition, Art provides regular volunteer service to the Cleveland Ignatius Volunteer Corp and ministers to hospitalized patients. Although nearing 80 years of age, he quietly and faithfully continues to fulfill his volunteer calling.



We salute Business Volunteers Unlimited and Forum for Volunteer Administrators for their role in promoting volunteerism!