



Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

December 2015 Issue #5

**Volunteer Opportunity:
Auto Show Parades**
January 16-24



Once again, The Parade Company is partnering with the North American International Auto Show to put on fun and exciting Parades during the Public Show on Jan. 16-24.

There will be two Parades each day. We need 25-30 volunteers each day for each Parade.

For more information and to sign up, please visit the [Sign Up Genius web site](#).

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WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

**A HUGE THANK YOU
FROM THE ART STUDIO**



Hi everybody,

I'd like to thank all of you for volunteering your time and hard work to help make yet another spectacular Parade.

It was a fantastic Parade, and it couldn't have been done without you.

I'm looking forward to getting started asap on the next parade, and all of the amazing projects we will be doing in between. Thanks again for all of your hard work!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

See you soon!

-- Eric Schmitt

Art Studio Manager, The Parade Company



Great Parade Season ... Awesome Volunteers!

More From our Parade Scrapbook



What was Your Favorite Parade Moment?



"Our Favorite Parade moment ... ALL OF THEM!! The experience is magical!!"
- Mark and Denise Van Sile

"My favorite parade moment was walking around with these guys having a good time with the kids and taking pictures making memories with the families."
- Helena Williams



"The Disco Dog and Cool Cats float serpentine down Woodward to the delight of many."
-- Norm Levy



"I had the most fun spotting the Distinguished Clown Core float down Woodward and interacting with all the clowns. I laughed and smiled the whole time. How could you not?" -- Maggie Prong



"Mary Ellen couldn't march this year but her wish was to be in the Parade. Providing her with a ride made all of our Thanksgiving wishes come true. She was like a kid on Christmas morning and we were delighted that we could share that time with her."
- Dorothy Babbage

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BIG EVENT...
100 AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

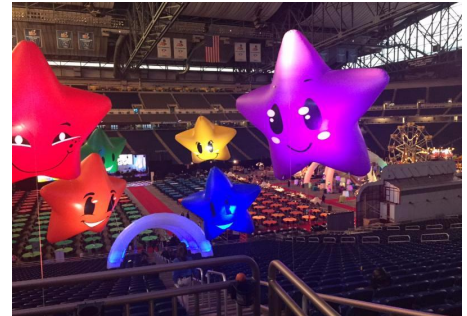


Super congrats to long-time TPC volunteer **Sandra Rellinger** who was recognized at the National Philanthropy Day® event at Cobo Hall in November.

The event honors the outstanding contributions of local philanthropists, volunteers and fundraisers in the Southeast Michigan community. Great job, Sandee - keep up the great work!



Wow! Hob Nobble Gobble was fantastic. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make the evening so special. We hope you had fun, and hope to see you again next year!



Kudos to everyone who helped with the Family Tour Day & Yazaki events! What fun!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Matthew Freeman



Have you ever heard of the expression "talk is cheap"? If you've met TPC volunteer Matthew Freeman, then you know that a conversation with him is priceless. Freeman was born with the gift of gab, an excellent memory and a caring heart.

In 1987, Freeman decided to use those talents to make a meaningful difference in his community by becoming a volunteer for The Parade Company.

Fast forward 28 years ... Freeman is still an invaluable long-time volunteer who helps TPC in just about every area of the organization. "Matthew is the ultimate utility volunteer," says Scott Stein, TPC Coordinator of Operations and Appearances. "He truly does it all ... tours, float driving, truck driving, appearances - and even office work if needed. To say he is a tremendous help/asset to the Parade Company is truly an understatement. Matthew's contributions and efforts are over and beyond and very much appreciated!"

It's safe to say that the entire TPC staff feels the same way. Freeman has helped the TPC family in so many ways.

As a tour guide, Freeman shares his wealth of knowledge about past Parades, as well as his fun and interesting volunteer stories with TPC guests. For him, it's a way to connect with people and showcase Detroit in its best light.



"The best thing about being a tour guide is letting people know about the great things in Detroit - like Parade Land," said Freeman. "I really enjoy giving tours to seniors and special needs groups. I love seeing the smiles on their faces. When I see people happy, it makes me happy."

This year, Freeman has logged over 400 volunteer hours, many of those hours were helping TPC staff members Marvin Thomas and Scott Stein with Appearances and Parades. Each year, he helps with America's Thanksgiving Parade presented by Art Van, as well as other TPC Parades including Grosse Pointe, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Grand Rapids and Rochester. Over the years he's gained a lot of knowledge and experience driving and towing floats, as well as navigating Michigan roads. In fact, Scott Stein says that Freeman earned the nickname "MapQuest" because of his "uncanny ability to give directions and navigate any road in the WHOLE country!"

We thank Matthew Freeman - and the many volunteers like him - for donating his time, talents and enthusiasm to The Parade Company.

SAVE THE DATE!

Volunteer
Thank You Party
January 26, 2016

Volunteers who have
put in 15 + TPC
volunteer hours
will be invited.

Hope to see you there!



5 Reasons Why TPC Tour Guides Rock

*TPC Tour guides help shape
Parade memories and enhance our
guest's experience of touring our
facility.*

*At TPC, we have the best volunteer
tour guides anyone could ask for.
We'd like to thank them for another
successful year and share five
reasons why our tour guides rock.*

- #5** They are always willing to give more.
- #4** They make blue vests look fashionable.
- #3** They often know just as much insider information as the insiders!
- #2** They give more than just a memorized, canned tour. They offer our guests a piece of themselves through personal stories and memories of the Parade.
- #1** Their passion for TPC and the Parade is instilled in their tours, and that makes for a lasting, positive experience that keeps our guests coming back!



STAY CONNECTED!

