



Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

February/March 2021 | Issue #1

SAVE THE DATE

- New Volunteer Orientation - March 11
- Volunteer Zoom Chat - March 24
- Movie Drive-in Volunteer Outing - May 16, 6:30 PM Sterling Heights, MI

*** Drive-in info coming soon!
Watch your email for details!!***

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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New Volunteer Orientation

VIRTUAL ORIENTATION ZOOM MEETING MARCH 11, 5-6 PM

We will resume New Volunteer Orientations starting March 11. The orientations will be offered online via Zoom.

We'll go over volunteer guidelines, how to use Volgistics (our volunteer management system), and answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP using the following link and we'll send you the Zoom information.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4cfa62ba3fd0-newvolunteer>

If you cannot make it, no worries! We will offer more training dates throughout the spring and summer.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



If you are interested in joining our mascot team, please email klleverett@theparade.org.

Once we receive your email, we will contact you to make arrangements for a costume fitting and training.

CLOWNIE'S NEEDED!

Every year, we get more and more requests for our beloved mascot, Clownie, to make appearances around metro-Detroit! Besides the Parade and Ford Fireworks, Clownie is asked to appear at grand openings, charity events, and sponsor events.

We need more volunteers to wear the Clownie mascot costume and represent TPC at events throughout the year. Volunteer duties include waving and greeting guests and posing for photos. Must have a friendly personality and enjoy interacting with people of all ages. You must be able to fit into the costume and head and walk around in costume for extended periods of time.

Your Safety is our Priority

You will be required to wear a mask (inside the mascot head) and socially distance while volunteering. The Clownie mascot head and costume are cleaned and disinfected before and after each appearance. All of our scheduled appearances follow state and local guidelines.



BECOME A TOUR GUIDE!

Do you have the gift of gab?
Do you love to meet new people?
Do you love The Parade? ...
then, this one is for you!!!

We are looking for more wonderful volunteers to join our tour program. You'll receive training, learn historical and fun facts about our Studio and The Parade, and you'll join a fantastic network of great volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a tour guide, please send an email to: smorris@theparade.org.



You shop, AmazonSmile donates

If you are an Amazon shopper, please don't forget to use the Amazon Smile link to support the Parade the next time you make a purchase!

Every time someone orders an item on Amazon (using the [Amazon Smile link](#)), Amazon will donate .5% to our charity (Michigan Thanksgiving Parade). All items are eligible.

It's not much, but if we all do it - a little can add up to a lot!!

Please use the following link when ordering from Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2460378> You must use this link in order for Amazon to donate to our charity!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



MEREDITH CARSON

What do you get when you pair a fun-loving person whose specialty is fixing smiles with a non-profit whose specialty is creating smiles? If you ask Meredith Carson, she'll tell you the answer is over a decade of rewarding fun!

Since 2008, Meredith Carson has been a volunteer superstar at the Parade Company. Outside of her day job fixing smiles (as an orthodontic assistant), Meredith spends her free time sharing smiles and spreading cheer through her volunteer work at the Parade Company.

Smart, outgoing, and unbelievably patient, Meredith is one of our amazing float driving trainers who shares her wealth of Parade knowledge with new volunteers.

"I absolutely love seeing people who are starting out just like me and making them feel at ease with how the float team works," said Meredith. "I've loved the bonds I've made on the float team, and it's a very big honor being a trainer! "

In the last few years, Meredith has moved out of the state twice: once to Chicago and later to Ohio (where she now resides). Despite the long commute, Meredith has never missed a Parade. "Moving hasn't interfered at all," she says. "I live in Columbus, Ohio now, and I'm closer to Detroit, but even when I lived in Chicago (about a 4.5-hour drive), I still made it up for float training and the Parade."

Now that's dedication.

We are so thankful for incredible volunteers like Meredith and are thrilled to feature her as this month's Volunteer Spotlight!

Q: How long have you been volunteering for The Parade Company?

A: I have been with The Parade Co since 2008, so well over 13 years!

Q: How did you get involved with The Parade Company? What or who inspired you?

A: I had a friend who volunteered with her family at the Parade each year, and she told me about it. The next thing I knew, I was painting and practically at the studio every day during Parade season.

Q: Has the Parade always been a tradition in your family?

A: So, I “voluntold” my parents that they should come volunteer at the studio, and they did! My mom volunteers in sewing and costuming. My dad did balloon handling with me one year, and now he works in Costuming with my mom on Thanksgiving morning. My boyfriend is also involved now and will be working with me on the float team.

Q: Favorite volunteer memory?

A: Getting an action photo of me handling the rainbow fish balloon a few years ago! It’s an action shot I still cherish to this day!

Q: What do you love about the Parade?

A: I absolutely love the energy on Parade morning and the excitement leading up to that day! I also love how much I have grown with the Parade throughout the years.

Q: Favorite TPC event and why?

A: My favorite is Hob Nobble Gobble by far! I’ve gone as a volunteer, but I’m ultra-excited to go as a guest next time!

Q: Funniest volunteer moment?

A: I’d have to say chasing a stray hubcap down the route from the Disco Dogs float! It was a little windy that day.

Q: Do you volunteer for other organizations?

A: I volunteer for quite a few conventions and events that raise money for various charities and animal rescues every year.

Q: Best advice you’ve ever been given ...

A: The past is your past for a reason. Look forwards, not back.

Q: What advice would you give to new volunteers at TPC?

A: Enjoy your time! Embrace the opportunities and never doubt a new experience! It’s completely what you make of it, and why not make it magical?



5 FUN FACTS about MEREDITH CARSON



1.

Favorite places to travel:
Disney World and Pittsburgh, PA!!

2.

Pets: I have an Australian Shepherd named Primrose. She's my princess and best fur baby!

3.

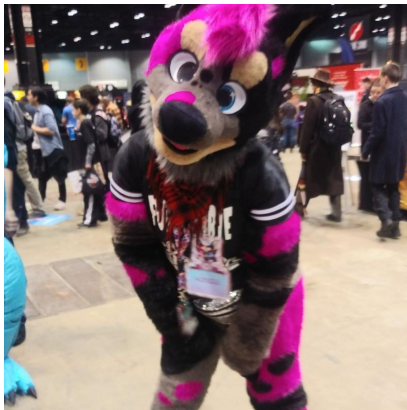
Pet peeves: Negativity! And, other people's hair ... (like stray hairs).

4.

Something that may surprise you about me ...
I'm a freelance mascot! I dress as "Kenzie" (my furry alter-ego) for charity fundraisers!!

5.

Favorite restaurant:
It's a tie between Shin Shin in Windsor or Melt in Columbus.



Kenzie (Meredith) having fun at a charity event



Volunteer Super heroes! Meredith and her dad, Calvin



Meredith's fav pic handling Rainbow Fish!



Manal Abulebdeh
 Claire Agar
 Sherese Anderson
 Shannon Antushevich
 Dennis Atkinson
 Douglas Atkinson
 Frank Baker
 Aaron Balcer
 Michele Ballard
 Phyllis Barrow
 Domonique Belle
 Nicholas Beller
 Sierra Bentley
 Angela Bernhardt
 Sophia Beydoun
 Lisa Blake
 Susan Bloodworth
 Wiry (Lee) Brantley
 Sonia Brown
 Lynn Calvert
 Alaina Careathers
 Ken Cazabon
 Wendy Chessin
 Shianna Coe
 Carolyn Coleman
 Brendan Collick
 Barbara Corn
 Patricia Crile
 Jim Dailey
 Adrienne Daniel
 Barbara Derengowski
 Patrick Derey
 Linda Dona
 Linda Doss
 Charmaine Dyson
 Bridgett Eddins
 Terra Edwards-Welton
 Julie Finn
 Angelice Floyd
 Isaiah Ford
 James Freers
 Brianna Gardner
 Beth Ghazal
 Angela Glefke

Tara Griffin
 Ann Haddock
 Zaundra Hardaway
 Keneisha Hardrick
 Lisa Harris
 Wilma Harris
 Leanna Haun
 Bob Hayes
 Arlene Helms
 Henrietta Hilberath
 Antonio Hill
 Stacy Hillery
 Diane Hockman
 Nakia Holley
 Carolyn Howard
 Nishay Husband
 Monique Irving-Martin
 Bruce Jacob
 Geoffrey Jones
 Natasha Jordan
 Tom Josaitis
 Larry Kabrick
 Pamela Kisner
 Cassandra Knox
 Dorothy Kolman
 David Koss
 Sharon Kreza
 Jessica Krug
 Karen Long
 Nastassia Mabry
 Jennifer Maccoll
 Barbara Macdonald
 Corey Marshall
 Adrienne Mondello
 Gary Morgan
 Sharon Morris
 Brandi Murphy
 Carl Murphy
 Barbara Nagel
 Doreen Odom
 George Olds
 Shaunice Orr
 Laniesha Owens
 Heather Papp

Todd Pawlik
 Nikia Paylor
 Geneva Phillips
 Brenda Pitts
 Katie Pusz
 Darryl Rambus
 Johnny Reffigee
 Jonathon Rhind
 Diane Rimar
 Carol Rivetto
 Beth Rockford
 Jane Rousseau
 LaKila Salter
 Pauline Sandoval
 Dominique Scott
 Oscar Segal
 Luka Sheppard
 Conrad Siat
 Shane Simmons
 Annette Singleton
 Joe Smith
 Kathy Soyk
 Jamal Spencer
 Venus Sykes
 Tobi Talabi
 Steve Tank
 Bryan Taylor
 Cathy Taylor
 Phyllis Thomas
 Kylund Thompson
 Richard Thomson
 Sean Tiller
 Alytle Tucker
 Josie Unitis
 Carol Verkennis
 Kenneth Vermiglio
 Michelle Voight
 Jill Weinberg
 Janet White
 Stephanie Wilkins
 Keri Willard
 George Wojdacki
 Gary Wolf
 Brenda Young



Amit Alandkar
Ahmad Alqahtani
Sheree Anderson
Angela Arrington
Janet Azar
Paulette Baker
Patricia Banks
Laura Bartnik-Walton
Tanya Bernes
Parker Bowman
Crystal Brown
Meredith Carson
Barbara Coleman
Mandy Copeland
Dorothy Covington
Deborah Crowley
Larry De Baker
Jafre Deloatch
Dena Dewolf- Duignan
Harold Dore
Isaiah Eatmon
Charles Elliott Jr
Jason England
Danna Fennoy
Andrea Ferriss
Valerie Ford
Diane Francisco
Carolyn Gammicchia
Keith Gatewood
Julie Geisinger
Evan Glenz
Skylett Goodman
Gerry Gordon
Kristin Graham
Jillian Hall
Sandra Hall
Deborah Haman
Lauren Hans
Jennifer Hill



Terrance Hodge
Robert Hoekstra
Gary (Fuzzy) Holleran
Melia Howard
Melvia Howze
Diana Hughes
Tamara Hyer
Brian James
Carol Johnson
Renee Johnson
Zharia Johnson
Charisse Jones
Cynthia Jones
Brittany Justice
Brianna Kammer
Steven Kargenian
Rosalind Khan
Brent Kilbury
Debra Kozar
Shelli Kurak
Nicci Kushner
Latania Lewis
Rachael Love
Cathy Maher
Doug Malbach
Ronya Mallad
Xavier Mallory
Mia Mayes
Courtney McClellan
James Mcivor
David Menzies
Tanisha Moore
Marilyn Morgan
Colbi Moultrie-Davis
Chappelle Mucker
Sarah Mullen
Brenda Nagle



Patricia Newman
Ann Pape
Jennifer Parks
Felicia Phillips McGlocklin
Donna Piasecki
Maggie Prong
Holly Quagliotto
Sonya Ramey
Enzo Ramus
Michael Randazzo
Paula Reece
Jane Rougeau
Mary Anne Russo
Pamela Samson
Lynn Sarosik
Cindy Scarpace
Vanessa Senyk
Danial Shamoon
Cindy Silski
Mel Stokes
Art Stone
Allen Sukenic
Sorrell Tameka
Katherine Tear
Amanda Thompson
Tiffany Toliver
Chris Venet
Laney Vidal
Shawn Warren
Marjorie Wekwert
Worthon White
Justin Wicker
Brittany Williams
Vickie Williams
Ron Wisswell
Katrina Young
Alec Zajac
Janice Zedde
Donna Zienty-Wagner

2021 VOLUNTEER FORMS & WAIVERS

We cannot wait to welcome back our volunteers!!!
Please make sure your forms for 2021 are on file, so you'll be ready when we're back in action!

THE PARADE COMPANY
2021 Community/Corporate Service VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Please note the following:

- Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.
- Volunteers under 18 years old must be accompanied by parent/guardian.
- Release & Waiver of Liability must be signed actually by each volunteer and by parent/guardian if volunteer is under 18 years old.
- Please type or print clearly.

I am a ☐ New Community Volunteer in 2021 ☐ Returning Community Volunteer (once)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Name of Organization you are with: _____

The Parade Company offers a variety of volunteer opportunities year-round in addition to the Fall Parade season. Please answer the following questions.

I am interested in having my contact information added to the volunteer data base to receive updates on volunteer opportunities. ☐ YES please proceed with application ☐ NO you are done with application. Sign waiver on back.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: Home: () _____ Work: () _____ Cell: () _____

Email address: (print very clearly) _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: () _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

(If you are a Student - please include "Student" in "Occupation" and enter your school name in "Employer")

Birthdate (Month/Date/Year) ____/____/____ "Driver's Lic. # _____ Exp. ____/____/____

* Required for any Drivers assignments, including Fall Drives.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, provide the date of the conviction and specify the crime for which you were convicted.

Please list any medical concerns or limitations that may hinder you from performing any assignments:

Are you available to work between the hours of 8am - 5pm during the week? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, list hours and days available: _____

List special skills and talents that may be helpful to The Parade Company: _____

How did you hear about Volunteer Opportunities with The Parade Company? (please print Source) _____

*** Must Read and Sign the Release & Waiver of Liability***
Please place your initials on page #2 and your full signature on page #3.
*** Application is not valid if Waiver is not signed. ***
Submission of Application does not guarantee acceptance.

1

Volunteer Waiver

Be sure to complete and sign a [volunteer waiver](#) for 2021. You must complete a new waiver every year. Please note: for the safety of all, we reserve the right to conduct background checks.

You can scan/email the completed document to volunteers@theparade.org, fax it to 313.923.2920, or mail it to Parade Company Studio, 9500 Mt. Elliott Detroit, MI 48211. Send by March 31, 2021. Please print legibly!!!



Volunteer Handbook/Code of Conduct

All new volunteers must review and acknowledge receipt of **The Parade Company's Volunteer Handbook/Code of Conduct**.

The Handbook describes our organization's guidelines and policies.

After reading the **Handbook**, we ask that you print your name, sign and date the Handbook Acknowledgement on the last page. Please **email** or fax (313.923.2920) the last page of the Volunteer Handbook to the Volunteer Director by March 31, 2021



VOLUNTEER ZOOM CHATS!!

Volunteer Zoom Chats take place on the fourth Wednesday of every month! We catch up, get volunteer updates, and play a game or two. Zoom times are Noon and 6 PM - you can join one or both!

Mark your calendar for the next Zoom Chat on March 24!

NOON ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88091506516?pwd=YzMvM2pKdVlOcVZzN1ZEbkVEajZqQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9150 6516

Passcode: clownie

6 PM ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88007160794?pwd=ZXpGWVhkS05XV1kycXZXU1ZpWTZTZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 0716 0794

Passcode: clownie



Goodbye Dear Friend

We were saddened to hear about the passing of Donna Voytush, one of our long-time dedicated volunteers. Donna was a big help with events such as the Ford Fireworks and Detroit River Days. We will miss her smile and beautiful personality.

Click [here](#) to view her obituary.

THE PARADE COMPANY
theparade.org



The Parade Company | 9500 Mt. Elliott, Studio A, Detroit, MI 48211

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