



Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

May-July 2021 | Issue #3

The Parade is Back!!



SAVE THE DATE

- New Volunteer Orientation - Aug 19
- Cruise in Shoes 5K Run - Aug 21
- Volunteer Zoom Chat - Aug 25
- Parade Season Outdoor Kick-Off - Sept 12

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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SUPPORT THE DETROIT ZOO!

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VOLUNTEER FOR THE PARADE!! NOVEMBER 25

To volunteer, simply:

1. Go to [THE PARADE ONLINE APPLICATION SITE](#)
2. Choose your top 3 preferred positions.
3. Complete the online application & click "Submit"

Remember, even if you submitted a Parade Volunteer Application in the past, you will still need to submit an application for this year! Assignments will be sent by Aug. 31!

UPDATED COVID POLICY FOR VOLUNTEERS

The health and safety of volunteers, guests and staff is our highest priority.

Following new guidelines set at the county, state and national level, we have updated our guidelines for Volunteers:

INDOOR VOLUNTEER POSITIONS - All Parade Company volunteers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to sign up for indoor volunteer positions. This includes sewing, float construction/painting, office work, and tours. This also includes Parade Company indoor events such as Preview Party, Pancake Breakfast and Hob Nobble Gobble presented by Ford. ***Please note: you may also be asked to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status for some activities ***

OUTDOOR VOLUNTEER POSITIONS – Volunteers who sign up for outdoor positions are not required to be vaccinated. For example, if you signed up for Cruise in Shoes 5K Run or a Parade position where you are working outside, you will not need to be vaccinated.

Please stay home and do not sign up to volunteer if:

- You are sick, recently tested positive for COVID-19, or have been in close contact with a confirmed case - even if you are vaccinated against COVID-19.
- If you have recently traveled abroad or traveled to any impacted "hot bed" area in the United States within 14 days.

Click below for the further updates.

COVID POLICY

THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE!

2021 VOLUNTEER FORMS & WAIVERS

All Volunteers Must Have a 2021 Volunteer Waiver on File. Be Sure to Send Yours in!!!

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.



Volunteer Handbook/Code of Conduct

All new volunteers must review and acknowledge receipt of [The Parade Company's Volunteer Handbook/Code of Conduct](#).

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.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JEVON TINSLEY



This month we are shining the Volunteer Spotlight on Jevon Tinsley!

Standing at 6-foot-6-inches, Jevon towers over most people he encounters. At first glance, you might mistake him for an all-star athlete, and not exactly the type of person who would rock an adorable snowman costume.

That just goes to show you, there's more to our volunteers than meets the eye!

Jevon is one of our incredible volunteers who helps year-round with events, studio work, and yes, he can rock the heck out of a snowman costume (as a banner carrier) for the Parade! He brings a warm and giving spirit to every task he's given. And his love of people and all

things fun has earned him high praise by the Parade Company staff and his fellow volunteers.

Jevon starting volunteering for the Parade in 2016 after reading a social media post.

"I saw a social media post about volunteering for the Parade," said Jevon, whose "day job" is being part of the loan expert team at Detroit-based Rocket Mortgage. "I thought volunteering with the Parade would be something fun I could do on Thanksgiving before spending time with my family. Since that first year, marching in the Parade has become my Thanksgiving tradition."

Jevon is just one of the thousands of volunteers who begin their Thanksgiving holiday with another family – The Parade Company Volunteer Family!

We so appreciate the many volunteers who work so hard in the months leading up to Thanksgiving, performing behind-the-scenes work, staging work and the work on the day of the Parade marching or driving down Woodward Avenue.

Jevon has filled many of these roles and is always on the lookout for what he wants to do next. Here is a look at his journey with The Parade Company:

Q. How long ago did you start as a volunteer with TPC?

A. "I guess it was about five or six years ago."

Q. Are you from Michigan?

A. "Yes. I was born and raised in Detroit. My mom and I lived on the west side of Detroit."

Q. Is the Parade something you grew up watching or did you become interested in it as an adult?

A. "My mom and I watched the Parade when I was little. We attended a couple of them in person and I always found them so amazing. I remember that I especially loved seeing the floats. I, of course, had no idea you could actually be a part of the Parade!"

Q. Does your mother volunteer as well?

A. "No, she doesn't volunteer but she's still a Parade fan. She watches it on TV and looks for me."

Q. What are some of the volunteer roles you've had during your tenure with TPC?

A. "For the actual Parade day, I started off as a Banner Carrier. For the last few years, I've been a Unit Marshal, but I think I may try Balloon Handler next. In the time leading up to the Parade, I also help the artists in the studio with painting the floats, which I love. Whatever I can do to contribute, I am all in."

Q. What has been your favorite volunteer position so far?

A. "I would have to say Unit Marshal. I just love being able to walk alongside a float. To be able to look out and see everyone's reaction to the float makes my day every time."

Q. What would you say is the most rewarding part of being a volunteer?

A. "For me, just being involved with everything is very special – from helping with the floats, to being in the actual Parade. It's so rewarding for me to see the final product of the work that all of the volunteers, including myself, do for the Parade and other events as well. I have so many wonderful memories from my involvement, it's pretty hard to even think of a favorite memory."

Q. Does your height come in handy for volunteer jobs?

A. "Yes, I'm 6'6" and my height does come in handy, especially when I'm helping the artists with painting. I can reach areas of the float that they can't!"

Q. What advice do you have for new volunteers?

"I have received recognition at work for my volunteer work, but for me, it's about the experience. For anyone who is interested in volunteering with The Parade Company I tell them that they should. They will have fun and, trust me, it will be worth coming in and helping to create the magic that's done when volunteering for the Parade. You know, my favorite quote is from Walt Disney: *'All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.'*



5 Facts You Didn't Know About

JEVON TINSLEY



1.

Favorite place to eat: HopCat!

2.

True story: I completed a college program in 2012 at Walt Disney World in Florida. I spent six months working in the parks. Who knows, I might still have some magic left in me!

3.

Favorite place to visit: Downtown Detroit during the summer.

4.

Pets: I have 2 cockatiel birds named CC & Chuckles. They've been with me since I was a teen.

5.

Pet Peeves: Slow drivers in the passing lane & tailgaters



Jevon is pictured here strutting his stuff down Woodward as a Banner Carrier.



TIK TOK TOURS!!

Just as our quarantine was being lifted and it was safe to gather, we hosted our first TikTok Tour!

It was called **The First Annual Detroit Meet Up**. We were lucky to partner with three local **TikTok** creators and a special TikTok guest to co-host the event. They spread the word on their social media channels and encouraged their followers to spend the weekend visiting fun places in The D – and of course - the Parade Company Studio was one of the stops!

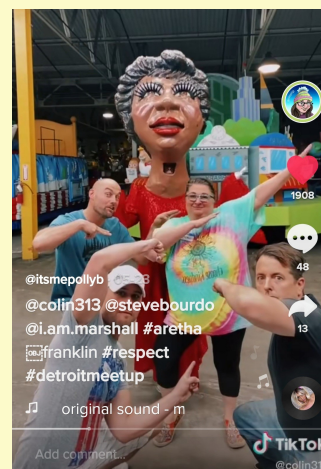
As the tour guests started to arrive at The Parade Company, I was amazed at how so many seemed to know each other and were good friends. It was like a family reunion!!

They all had so much fun touring the studio with our amazing Tour Guides and Parade Volunteers. All the while, snapping selfies, posting on social media, and making short TikTok videos that they shared with their followers all over the world.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who came and shared their sparkle with all our guests.

What a great Saturday Afternoon!!

XOXO – Sharon



Here's a quick bio on our TikTok friends.

#Colin313 is a local do-gooder who goes out of his way to do random acts of kindness. Colin313 is currently riding his bike across the USA, spreading joy, arranging park clean-ups, and doing random acts of kindness.

#i.am.marshall another local do-gooder who loves to spread joy and laughter.

#steveburdo, a good friend of Colin and a local social media influencer. And a very fun guy.

#itsmepollyb (Polly) came in from New Hampshire to attend; she is a hoot! Polly loves to wear tie-dye clothing, and she owns a successful ice cream truck in her home state.

Check out this cool [video](#) from the TikTok tour!

For more information or to book your own private tour, visit the.parade.org!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & REMINDERS



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.

JOIN OUR CLOWNIE MASCOT TEAM!

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

Volunteers participating in indoor events must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. 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.



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!!!

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED!

Parade season is just around the corner, and our tour program will be busy, busy, busy!!!

We are looking for more wonderful, outgoing volunteers to become tour guides. 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. Also, join us on August 17, 1 PM for a special tour for tour guides! Contact [Sharon](#) for more info!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Another Way to Help!

If you are an Amazon shopper, please don't forget to use the [Amazon Smile link](#) to support the Parade!

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

HUGE THANKS to everyone using the link ~ every little bit helps!!!!



Abella, Karen
Aiello, Raina
Albrecht, Robb
Alexander, Tara
Anklam, Ryan
Avery, Steven
Bairley, Jennifer
Bastianelli, Sharon
Bialczak, Irene
Brooks, Kelly
Bryant, Viola
Burleigh, Dalton
calleja, cherish
Cantrell, Suzanne
Carter, Ellen
Caruso, Michael
Cavender, Janette
Cepeda, Nancy
Chilton, William
Coleman, Melody
Cook, Vetta
Davis, Delrice
Davis, Karen
Decker, Eric
Dekimpe, Maria
Deuby, Timothy D.
Dunn, Shalonda
Durden, Kimberly
Duvall, Tori
Dwornick, Ann
Engels, Lauren
Engels, Nancy
Feldman, Susie
Forbes, Tonie
Frazier, Parish
french, sandra
Gardner, Carrie
Gaskins, Thereatha
Glenn, Cora
Grant, Isaiah
Green, Regina
Grewette, Carrie

Grieser, Randy
Gruda, James
Hackett, Stephen
Herrick, Lynn
Hines-Sturr, Barbara
Hinkle, Stacey
Hodge, Alicia
Holderith, Terri
Howell, Ericka
Hunter-Carey, Kelley
Hurst, Catrina
Jakubus, Sharond
Jefferson-Franklin, Timika
Johnson, Rayvonte
Karadian, Stefanie
Kauffman, Amy
Killebrew, Sherrie
Killian, Eugenia
Kingsbury, Jeffrey
Kuczborski, Beth
Long, Amy
Losey, Peggy
Lutz, Pat
Malone-Barnes, Janella
Massey, Rolanda
McCray, Ursula
McDonald, Pat
Miotke, Harvey
Mitchell, Barbara
Morgan, Paul
Morris, Marie
Morton, Sherry
Moses, Venus
Mueller, Patti
Naglich, Kim
Nance, Tiffany
Nathan, Kathy
Nistor, Bianca
Patterson, Robert
Pertz, Leslie

Piccirilli, Susan
Porter, Fred
Randazzo, Mark
Rapaport, Dawn
Rascoe, Loren
Reeves, Debbie
Rivers, Darlene
Robinson, LeShauna
Rodeman, Joanne
Rudover, Lindie
Saba, Azalea
Santure, Sandra
Schmidt, Kathleen
Seccombe, Valerie
Sedrowski, Phil
Shephard, Robert
Sikora, Charles
Simon, Miranda
Smith, Erlean
Snow, James
Snowden, Arneader
Straughn, Cynthia
Stupera, Heather
Sturdevant, Laura
Swan, Richard
swann, jennifer
Talabi, Sara
Templeton, David
Terrell-Wilson, Treazure
Terzich, Scott
Torrey, Patty
Turla, Krystal
Tuzinsky, Rachel
Vince, Anna
Vogel, Michael
Washington, Jamario
Weller, Luke
Weller, Mia
Wesley, Shatica
Williams, Brad
Williams, Kinyotta
Williams, Ramon



Ahmed, Gul
Allen, Jennifer
Allen, Mesha
Alvin, Brian
Anderson, Beatrice
Atkins, Beverly
Bailey, Rhonda
Bango, Karen
Banks, Raquel
Baran, Jill
Barrett, Leila
Bartush, Ed
Bartush, Lauren
Beard, Myke
Bradley, Renee
Brandon, Waheeda
Brennan, Dorothy
Bryant, Sarah
Burgess, George
Burhans, Kay
Burton, Tracey
Burton Johnson, Pamela
Carson, Ebony
Chavis, Ken
Chivinsky, Darlene
Collier, Rachel
Copeland, Kathleen
Crafton, Jena
Crawford, Adam
Crawford, Yolanda
Czaplicki, Diane
Czaplicki, Robert
Daniel, Valencia
Davies, Tamara
Davis, Nikishia
Dean, Larry
Debaker, Gerald
DeMayo, Mary Kay
Dichazi, Larry
Dingeldey, Michael
Dowdell, Gabrielle
Edevbie, Aghogho
Eichenhofer, Ayla
Ekonen, Nick
Elerson, Shanee
Ellena, Mark
Ellis, Ann Marie
Ellis, David
Essak, E
Ferrier, Steve
Gilchrist, Alyson

Gorman, Kevin
Graham, Jaclyn
Haggerty, Daniel
Heldt-Kitowski, Cynthia L
Hoover, Kimberly
Horton, Anton
Humphrey, Feana
Hunt, John
Hunt, Jordan
Hurston Smiley, Aretha
Jackson, Michelle
Jensen, James
Jezak, Kathleen
Johnson, Donte
Johnson, Michelle
Kaspari, Melissa
Kayne, Nancy
Kiefer, Marilyn
Klimek, Suemarie
Knox, Karen
Laabs, Tom
Lazarz, Julie
Leonard, Denise
Love, Bill
Love, Christee
Mabe, Rick
Manning, Elaine
Marsh, Michael
Mayers, Tamara
Mazur, Samantha
McClellan, Evelyn
McComsey, Payton
McGuckin, Teresa
Meadows, Jamie
Millen, Matthew
Miller, Rebecca
Miranda, Carolyn
Mizzi, Kimberly
Mokaram, Nima
Morandini, Donald
Mullins, Tatum
Munoz, Lydia
Norris, Amelia
Obrien, Justin
Olech, Pam
Oren, Bob
Oseid, Staci
Parrish, Kena
Patterson, Vashun
Penner, Lauren
Peterson, Charles

Peyton, Diane
Poole, Jennifer
Pugliese, Jeannette
Ramirez, Adriana
Rej, Eva
Reyes, Maria
Riviera, Rachel
Robinson, Lena
Roddie, Cynthia
Rodriguez, Kelly
ROSSI, MARIO
Rugenstein, Alexandria
Schneider, Debbie
Shaw, Tynique
Sheffield, Amy
Simmons, Tawana
Sims, Teante
Singleton, Paul
Smith, Ron
Snyder, Candace
Speed, Alan
Sposito, Timothy B
St. John, Dana
Stroud, Mary
Szymendera, Victoria
Taylor, Leslie
Tengler, Jennifer
Thomas, Karlynn
Tiernan, Danielle
Tiggs, Chedebrus
Tinsley, Jevon
Toles, Deborah
Van Campen, Susan
Vetting, Andrew
Vitale, Rochelle
Wade-Bell, Nicole
Wallace, Kimberly D
Walters, LaVonne
Washington, Sharon
Washington, Zariyah
Weber, Marisa
White, Marilyn
Wilber, Denine
Wiley, Cleo
Williams, Tamika
wilson, mary
Wilson, Scott
Winn, Kenya
Young, Cathy
Young, Jochlynn
Zadorozny, Mark



AUGUST



Allen, Steven
Babbage, Dorothy
Baczkowski, Janice
Bahoura, Catherine
Bahr, Linda
Baker, Barbara
Baker, Tracey
Bejin, Susan
Billstrom, Theresa
Biondo, John
Black, Norma
black, shalyce
Bohman, Jeanne
Bozin, Elaine
Bryant, Rene'
Busquaert, Anna
Carlu-Sorrell, Kim
Charles, Stephen
Clayborn, Towondo
Cleland, Catherine
Collier, Antonio
Dailey, Jennifer
Delaflor, Angela
Delgado, Aliza
DeMayo, Rick
DeStefanis, Grace
Detiege, Ashlie
Dexter, Brad
Dickerson, Krystal
Dodge, Kathryn
Dolega, Roseanne
Domagalski, Susan
Dukhie, Sandra
Duncan, Summer
Ebsen, Bobbi
Eckstein, Kris
Edwards, Shanise
Elek, Jim
Ellis, Alexis
Erxleben, Roberta
Fall-Diop, Adja
Farrow, Carol
Feinbloom, Rosie
Flaga, Daniel
Foster, Kendall
Franklin, Pamela
Frazier, Debra
Frederick, Karen
Frost, Antoinette
Gaines, Mac
Gilliland, Janice
Glenz, David

Graber, Tammi
Grgurich, Colleen
Grgurich, Joel
Guajardo, Deanna
Hickman-Jackson, Stacey
Hodge, Tina
Holderith, Bana
Hollingshed, Brandi
Horn, Tanya
Hughes, Nancy
Hulett, Erin
Hunter, Gina
Hyden, Robin
Ivy, Johnny
Jenner, Nicholas
Jewell, Ashani
Johnson, Adrianna
Johnson, Annie
Johnson, Demarko
Johnson, Dennis
Johnson, Laila
Jones, Tierra
Kamali, Behrad
Katanski, Daniel
Kellogg, Castana
Kelly, Alisha
Kennedy, Freya
King, Robin
Kirks, Louise
Kochanski, Helen
Kranson, Bob
Krist, Matthew
Kulek, Annette
Kury, Joshua
Lewis, Destiney
Lewis, Kielon
Lizbinski, Greg
Lodato, Maria
Lundell, Erika
Lundell, Theresa
Lundy, Delores
Lyles, Jason
Lyons, Michelle
Mabie, Brian
Mann, Kelsey
Marvin, Terry
Marx, Mike
Milliken-Boyd, Kathi
Mitchell, Roxanne
MORGAN, WIL
Morris, Sam
Morris, Sunnie

Murphy, Alexander
Norback, Julie
Okonkwo, Ike
Owens, Nadine
Parus, Ralph
Payne, Christine
Perlin, Mitchell
Perry, Chelsea
Phelps, Christine
Plante, Jill
Poulos Scotto, Betty
Powe, Mellonease
Quagliotto, Steven
Rehfeld, Mary
Reisen, Kay
Ried, Bill
Riser, Shanae
Robinson, Cathy
Robinson, James
Savage, Mary
Schwartz, Julie
Sheedy, Ann
Sheppard, Polly
Smolarek, Thomas
Soyk, Carl
Stacy, Therese
Stambaugh, MaryAnne
Stanford Johnson, Jocelynn
Starbird, Chelsea
Stevenson, Sandra
Stieber, David
Tank, Angela
Taylor, James
Teller, Anita
Terrell, Audrey
Tiernan, Richard
Turner, Beatrice
Uthes, Jerry
Valcheva, Vessela
Velleca, Josephine
WALDVOGEL, JODI
Waskiewicz, Stephanie
Weiss, Christine
Whiting, Philecia
Williams-Fox, Rainesha
Williamson-Staten, Kimberly
Wilson, Allyah
Wilson, Diana
Wisswell, Christine (Chris)
Wofford, Christine
Yates, Katreena
Zettner, Randy

SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS AT THE DETROIT ZOO!



JOIN OUR ZOO FAMILY, JOIN OUR MISSION!

The Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) is a renowned leader in wildlife conservation, animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and humane education. When you become a Member, you join our mission of Celebrating and Saving Wildlife. Together, we can make a difference.

Annual membership benefits include:

- Free daytime admission and parking at the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Center
- Advance ticket sales to special events
- Discounted admission to select zoos and aquariums nationwide
- Discounts on Zoo merchandise and classes
- Digital subscriptions to digital Habitat and Zmail

THREE WAYS TO JOIN:

- Go to detroitzoo.org/membership
- Call (248) 541-5717 (press 3)
- Visit our onsite Main Admissions Gate



*Clownie and his friend Gerry the giraffe
having a blast at the Detroit Zoo!!*



*It was a perfect day to explore and get some Vitamin Z!!
Schedule your visit today!*



Our updated policies will be reviewed regularly, and changes will be made accordingly to keep everyone safe. Please watch your email for updates!

Art Studio Help Updates

There will be a few changes this year for helping in our Art Studio:

- **No Drop-in Volunteer Opportunities** - We will send notifications through email to let volunteers know when help is needed.
- **Please call and confirm ahead of time before coming in to help.** We don't always have projects for volunteers, and we do not want you to make a wasted trip.
- **Vaccinations are Required for Indoor Activities** - Volunteers must be fully vaccinated and will be asked to wear a mask in order to volunteer in our Art Studio.
- **No Late Nights or Saturday Volunteer Hours** - The Art Studio hours are Mon-Fri, 9 AM-4 PM. We will let you know if this changes later this fall.



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 (with prizes!!) Zoom times are Noon and 6 PM - you can join one or both!

Mark your calendar for the next Zoom Chat on Aug. 25!

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



NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

ZOOM MEETING AUGUST 19, 5-6 PM

The next New Volunteer Orientation will be on August 19 and 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/30e0c4cafa62ba3fd0-newvolunteer>

If you cannot make it, no worries! We will offer another training date in September.

