

Brandon Lampkin - Awardee, CFF 2011 Good Neighbors = Strong Community Awards

Mr Brandon Lampkin is the US Postal Service Carrier for many a fortunate person on the Southwest side of Ferndale. The neighbors on his route LOVE him, speaking of the spring and joy in his step. He is described by many as a real character, a jokester, quick with a one-liner, and always generous with his warm smile, listening ear, and joy of life.

What many of us might not know about Brandon is his distinctive volunteerism. He is a roller skater, (think, like a professional ice skater) and has shared his gift with many service organizations, inspiring young and old alike, in the metro area.

But it's what he sees in our community that impresses us about this honoree. Asking him, what do you notice about Ferndale, he says - "The people of Ferndale are the most underrated people in America." He notes the warmth of our community, our hard working neighbors. He speaks of our generosity -- heading up his postal route's yearly food drive, he notes how consistently generous the people on his route are.

A mail carrier in Ferndale for 21 years he has seen a whole lot of changes in our community. "The people have," as he notes, "taught me to be versatile." He thinks the diversity of our community is something special and reminds him that everyone, no matter who they are and who they love, "just need a hug"

Brandon has a watchful eye. He speaks of our kids with such reverence and respect, keeping an eye out for them when he is off and on duty. Parents on his route know that he has stepped in with kindness when he has seen kids in a tight spot. He seems to have a special understanding and regard for our kids. Maybe it is because he is a big kid himself in so many ways.

Brandon comes here tonight with his fellow Ferndale postal carriers (where are you?) who he considers the closest of friends. We could easily tonight be giving this award out to a whole team of people who might easily be taken for granted, but who support us day and day out, and keep a watchful eye out for all of us behind the scenes, who for some, especially the home bound, may be the only regular human contact they have.

As his nominator noted, He reminds us to look out for one another, what the power of a smile is, (and he epitomizes the kind of community member that we all strive to be). Thanks, Brandon, for being our Good Neighbor.