

The next Good Neighbor Honoree is... a teenager. In the years usually defined by egocentrism, Ryan Humphreys is being honored for his selflessness. It makes this award all the more special.

Ryan is one of five siblings. He is a senior at Ferndale High school where he is a member of the Baseball team. He is an excellent student and an active member of his church. As if all of that weren't enough for any young person to manage, Ryan does even more.

If I know anything about him from the nomination letter written by Jackie Koivu, and conversations I have had with his mother, I know that Ryan is committed and caring. When neighbors needed help relocating from their life long home, this young man devoted many hours, weekends even, to help them move. He assisted with the estate sale. He cleared their sidewalks of snow. He was ready to help when called upon, time and again. Ryan clearly cares for his neighbors.

His dedication to the community is evidenced by years of involvement with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Ferndale. First, as a member of the FHS team, committing fully to 24 hours of the walk, then forming a team with his mother, Susan, the following year. This year, he continues to increase his level of commitment and responsibilities by heading up the logistics team.

Ryan has recently made the kind of commitment that can fill a mother's heart with pride and sorrow all at once. Ryan has committed to serve not only his neighbors, and his community, but his country, in the United States Air Force.

With this kind of commitment and service to neighbors, community, and country, Ryan epitomizes what it means to be a good neighbor.