

GREAT GIFTS OF *Gratitude*

♥ YOUR NOMINATION ♥

Dear Sven Peterson,

Congratulations! You were nominated and selected as a winning recipient in our Great Gifts of Gratitude awards; a call for our communities to recognize local heroes going above and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read what was said about you in the nomination story submitted to us below.

Leadership during a time of crisis, separates those that lead because of their position from those that lead because of their disposition. Sven Peterson is the city manager of a rural town of 8,000 people who spent weeks preparing for the arrival of the pandemic to Perry, Iowa. This was not easy, given that his position is outside of the public health, industry, state or federal government. Other officials would wait for for direction before making decisions, Sven took it upon himself to encourage collaboration between public and private sectors. He directed reallocation of funds to purchase recreational equipment for kids stuck at home, helped organize the fundraising, purchasing, and distribution of thousands of masks weeks before guidance from the federal government encouraged the use of masks. Sven has worked behind the scenes on many of these initiatives and is tirelessly advocating for the residents of his community. Eventually the pandemic arrived to Perry and led to the infection of hundreds of residents, however, the community was better prepared for it because of Sven's leadership. Often times, leaders are brought to the forefront of attention when something goes wrong and are not recognized for the work that the public sees. Sven will be integral in the recovery of Perry from the pandemic and it would be wonderful to see him recognized for the work he has done so far.

Nominated by:
Eddie Diaz

We sincerely appreciate and gratefully acknowledge your dedication, creativity and compassion during these unique times. And thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

Thanks again,

Great Western Bank

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Dear Brandi Valdez,

Congratulations! You were nominated and selected as a winning recipient in our Great Gifts of Gratitude awards; a call for our communities to recognize local heroes going above and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read what was said about you in the nomination story submitted to us below.

Brandi has been working for the Perry School at the Elementary building. Since the school has not been open Brandi has been volunteering at all the different things thought out the school helping doing the curb lunch pickups. Brandi has also put some joy into the kids when they r coming though to get there meals and dressing up in costumes. Brandi also took time out on days she wasn't volunteering for the lunch program would go and pick up kids that didn't have a way to go get a lunch from the school to get them a lunch and some of those kids wouldn't have had a lunch if they wouldn't have been taken to get them. Also on some days she when she was working at the school would have her older kids go and take kids to the school to pick up lunches. Brandi has also been going out to our local food pantry and helping to give out food to the people needing help with food. When she found out the food pantry was low on meat she starting asking people if they could donate any meat to the pantry it would be a great help at that time she also let people know that HyVee in Perry had there hamburger on sale at a very good price and I believe she had said she got over 20 lbs of hamburger and several other kinds of meat that people called her and she took her time to go pick the meats up and relieve red it to the pantry. She has also helped many family's that don't speak good English and needed help due to being displaced from work and needing help with a lot of different things. With all Brandi had going on she also help my family out after April 20th when we lost everything we owned due to a house fire. She took us in until the insurance company could get us a place to stay. I felt Brandi with her big family and everything she was doing volunteering and stuff that she has really stepped up and went out of her way in more than one way.

Nominated by:
Jolene Galvan

We sincerely appreciate and gratefully acknowledge your dedication, creativity and compassion during these unique times. And thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

Thanks again,

Great Western Bank

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Dear Teresa Cromwell,

Congratulations! You were nominated and selected as a winning recipient in our Great Gifts of Gratitude awards; a call for our communities to recognize local heroes going above and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read what was said about you in the nomination story submitted to us below.

Teresa works in the kitchen at our school. However, during this pandemic she has found a way to distribute not just lunches to our students daily, but making a family meal for the families. It's all part of our grab and go program. Currently she is trying to find ways for this to continue through the summer months for our families. Just one less thing for them not to worry about.

Nominated by:
Kayla Rothmeyer

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Thanks again,

Great Western Bank

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Dear Juan “Karma” Meraz,

Congratulations! You were nominated and selected as a winning recipient in our Great Gifts of Gratitude awards; a call for our communities to recognize local heroes going above and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read what was said about you in the nomination story submitted to us below.

He worked endlessly to supply families in need with food and toiletries when the pandemic first started and has continued to be the first person to offer a helping hand in our community.

Nominated by:
Courtney Straker

We sincerely appreciate and gratefully acknowledge your dedication, creativity and compassion during these unique times. And thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

Thanks again,

Great Western Bank