

A TRIBUTE FOR  
***Paulette Marchant***

Paulette Marchant, a nearly 40-year Fruit Heights resident, is a woman of many talents—she is good at organizing, she is precise in her work, she is a smart, utterly dependable friend and colleague, she sees what needs doing and gets it done. If you have a big project to accomplish, you want Paulette on your team. It is sometimes said, we should be *efficient* with *things*, but be *effective* with *people*. Paulette embodies that advice. For all her abilities and capabilities with projects, she *sees* the people around her more than many of us do.

Paulette and her husband Richard, a retired pilot and one-time Fruit Heights City Manager, live in the Somerset Condos. Their neighbors represent a wide variety of people: widows, single mothers, families, empty nesters, singles, some who have lived there a long time, and many who have come and gone. Paulette knows them all. It was said by one bishop that she was one of only 2 women he knew that would be welcomed into any home in the neighborhood—even the most difficult to reach. Paulette knows them, and they know she cares about them.

She watches over several widows in her neighborhood. She clears their walk, plants their flowers, brings their groceries, calls repairmen for them, takes them to the doctor, and communicates with their grown children, some of whom are near and some far. And she loves doing it. In her own words, “why wouldn’t I do that? I’ve got the time, I’m right here close by, so of course I would do it.” In the case of one widow she had cared for for some time, Paulette visited just hours before her friend passed away later that day. She was so glad to have been there earlier for her.

Paulette has served on the HOA board three times. She is known to plant flowers and water neglected grass just to beautify the area for everyone. Recently she was out in the condo playground area with a shovel and a small handful of helpers (half of them over 65), in the rain, digging holes and mixing concrete to install a new piece of play equipment. She tells that story with a laugh. Having served many years in a church calling as a leader of young women, Paulette still keeps up with those girls, taking them to lunch, keeping up on their lives of college, dating, marriage, children, and more.

In election season, at neighborhood caucus meeting, she has willingly accepted the role of delegate, to represent her neighbors in vetting candidates. They know she will spend the time to do the job well for them.

She has helped behind the scenes with Founder’s Day, placing countless phone calls and updating contact records, to gather donations from local businesses to support that event. When it was over, she volunteered to do it again—just let her know when you need her!

She has served as Production Manager for 2 large faith-based music productions: Rob Gardner’s *Lamb of God*, 4 years ago, and *Joseph Smith the Prophet* this past February.

To her friends, Paulette is the first person they think of when they have car trouble and need a ride. She’s the friend who will get their mail and water their plants when they leave town on vacation—they don’t even have to ask, she just does it. She’s their adopted mother and grandmother. She takes care of them like family.

And of course, she takes care of her actual family as well. She cares for Richard, for her grown children, and her 3 grandchildren who live in Utah County—driving there for all the soccer, cheerleading, baseball, and BYU football home games she can possibly attend with them.

Some months ago, she came across an opening for a part time receptionist at LDS Family Services. She applied and was hired. Now, for two days out of each week, she loves being a part of helping people get the help they need there. She speaks so kindly about those who come through those doors, especially the young people—she’d give them each a big grandma-hug if she could, and tell them “it will be alright”.

Paulette Marchant is an everyday hero who sees a need and jumps in to help out. She sees those needs because she is looking for them, every day. She has a talent for knowing how to help. Her *modus operandi* is to make things nicer around her, make people’s lives brighter, and to lighten the loads of those within her reach. She puts it simply when she says, “I just love people—and I love helping them”. And she is the last person to seek or desire any kind of personal praise or honor for her good deeds. When we told her we’d like to give her this award, she said she was humbled and probably didn’t deserve it. But we know better: the life of quiet, individual service is the definition of an Unsung Hero. There are many such heroes in the City of Good Neighbors, and this year we thank Paulette for being an inspiring example of one such hero.

Paulette, the City of Fruit Heights is pleased to present you with this award and thank you for your example. It is a small token, when compared with a lifetime of good works in our community.