

Volunteer of the Month Eddie Hagenbach

By Bernie Michel

If you're reading the print edition of this, chances are it was refolded from the Hartford News banner page to the AHNA News & Views banner page by Eddie Hagenbach. Each month, the Hartford News delivers bundles of their paper with our News and Views on the inside, and to be sure people see them, pick them up and read them, they have to be refolded. On that Friday evening I always bring a bundle to the Friday Night Gathering at Grace Lutheran Church, and Eddie is always there, waiting for the papers to arrive. In the beginning there were a few others who would occasionally help, but Eddie has always been the most regular and reliable helper.

While we were talking last month I asked him if there were any other places that he liked to volunteer. "Yes, I help at Loaves & Fishes all week, Monday to Friday" Eddie said "and then I help at the farmer's market too on Farmington Ave."

For those who know Eddie, and that should be just about everyone in Asylum Hill and the West End where he lives, they know that he can be counted on to be at nearly every public meeting, forum or event where policy is discussed or opinions are sought. I can't think of a time when he was at one of these events that he didn't speak his mind, and while not everyone agrees with all of his conclusions, no one can deny his passionate caring for his community.

If true volunteerism can be defined as a willingness to share with those in need the talents one has, then Eddie is a model volunteer sharing his talent of caring and concern, unfettered by shyness or embarrassment. We need more Eddies.

