

SPOTLight on Matt Govero, Queen's Market-Pevely

Local 655 urges members to help someone this holiday season

Matt Govero, a 4-year member Local 655 and a clerk at Queen's Market in Pevely, is no dyed-in-the-wool humanitarian, but he recently learned the value of volunteering.

He's seen the devastation of the spring tornado in Joplin become a collective effort in rebuilding; he's seen the smile on the faces of families whose homes were restored by those who care; and he's seen the satisfaction of those who helped.

"Everybody has good ideas, you just got to bring it out in them," said Govero remembering how he was suddenly thrown into a situation of helping Joplin tornado victims early last month. "We all worked together and had to put aside our differences—all for a common goal."

Govero, Vice President of the Jefferson College Student Senate, said he and about 80 other students from throughout the state were attending a conference in Branson when the Senate President decided to cut short the conference to help rebuild Joplin. The next thing Govero knew, he was part of "Ten for Joplin," a group with a vision for volunteerism. Govero's work was to survey damages, clear cracked foundations and paint newly constructed homes.

"This was the first time I volunteered for anything like this, but it felt really good

to give back," Govero said. "Sometimes helping out is even more beneficial than money. You see the people and know you're doing something they appreciate."

During a "blitz build" spanning 16 days, Govero and the Student Senate

participants joined forces with the Tulsa and Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity teams to construct 10 homes for low-income families impacted by the devastating tornado. Since then, he has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Crystal City.

"I guess I'd tell others to give back in any way, shape or form," Govero said. "I was shocked to see that Joplin still looked the way it did. There are a lot of ways to help out there. You just have to do it."

Looking for ways to help? Contact your Union Representative at 636-394-6500.



GOVERO