



Sun

[HOME](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [GAMES](#) [CONTACT U](#)www.Kijiji.com

Councilman has a passion for helping others

Published January 31st, 2008



By Sherri Coner Eastburn

With the heart of a helper that reaches not only across Indianapolis, but across the globe as well, Jeff Cardwell of Perry Township is happy to be newly elected to the Indianapolis City-County Council. A soft-spoken family man who is well known across the city for humanitarian efforts, Cardwell says he plans to simply listen to the people and act on their concerns. Every topic, from snow removal and trash pick-up to neighborhood crime and economic development, are parts of a puzzle he hopes to help piece together.

Every member of the city, from church clergy and school faculty, local businesses, police officers, firefighters and private citizens represent pieces of the puzzle.

"Those pieces create an environment to build a holistic community," Cardwell said. "To do that, it takes all those pieces to work in concert."

He's looking for ways to motivate all people from all areas of the city to join together, Cardwell said.

"Everyone has a role to play," he said. "For us to build a better community, it's going to take a community partnership. We all have to join together if we truly want to see a difference."

Professionally, Cardwell has served as president and CEO of Cardwell Do-It Best Home Center on the Southside since 1998. But his heart for volunteerism was molded in childhood.

Cardwell's parents, Charles and Betty Cardwell of Indianapolis, raised their children in the midst of

CATEGORI
At Play

CO
OP
Persona
Top Te
Lifestyle
Spirit O

AI

SS

...serving others. As a family, the Cardwells volunteered in food pantries, conducted various fundraisers, and took in family members who were down on their luck.

"Growing up, I thought, 'This is what we're all supposed to do,'" Cardwell said.

In his business, Cardwell frequently conducts drives to collect toys, medical supplies and food for the needy. In a back corner of the hardware store, Cardwell airs a weekly radio show, "People Helping People," to encourage volunteerism.

Soon after returning from a 2000 mission trip to El Salvador, Cardwell founded World in Need, a not-for-profit organization to assist other countries in times of crisis. When an earthquake struck El Salvador a few weeks later, World in Need provided more than \$2 million in emergency relief supplies. In September 2005, Cardwell led a first response team to deliver 2 million pounds of relief supplies to survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

He also has a love for Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for families, and offers countless hours to several area not-for-profit organizations.

Cardwell's résumé for giving is an impressive one, with incredible results.

His interest in politics began in 1980 with the campaign for President Ronald Reagan.

"As a young Republican, that was my first real involvement with politics," Cardwell said. "Ronald Reagan was a great visionary. He could speak with such passion about his vision of the United States and our role in the world. It really inspired America."

Cardwell's continued interest in politics was based on helping the right people get elected to office.

"If you want good government, you have to have good people," he said.

As Cardwell steps into his first elected responsibility, he is excited about the possibilities. And he's not flinching at all about challenges.

"I want to be a servant leader, leading by example," Cardwell said. "And I would just ask the community to join me on this journey to rebuild one of the greatest cities in this country — Indianapolis."



[World War III: 2008-2012](#) ->
The Nostradamus Code - Read The New Book
From Michael Rathford

[Earthquakes](#)
2-Minute Poll Test Your Earthquake
knowledge

Ads by Google

Leave a Reply

Name
 Mail (will not be published)
 Website

Submit Comment

- Register
- Login
- RSS
- Comment