

First Responders event a success because of many

Dear Editor,

Lake Stevens' very first National Thank You Day to Honor first Responders was a success with plenty of room to grow in the coming years.

None of it could have occurred however, without some very important help. Our city is so fortunate to have such a community newspaper. With the *Journal's* help, word spread and assistance appeared.

We're also lucky to have a community-minded printer. Foster Press helped again and again to get signs and flyers out the door.

Early on, Mayor Vern Little placed himself and the city firmly behind the project. This culminated in a proclamation which he delivered at the Thank You event on May 19.

Stepping up to the plate, The Family Center's Kathleen Friend provided invaluable help in getting the word out and cards and banners in. It was great fun posting the cards onto tri-folds which then were presented to each police, fire and rescue station.

Aquafest's own John Personnius posted Thank You signs all over downtown and Frontier Village areas so that first responders would see the message

all week long.

Police and fire even helped. When Laana Larson heard of the project, the Fire Conference Center was graciously offered for our event, and Julie Ubert created a fabulous PowerPoint display that played continuously through the evening.

Meribeth Hutchings, Windermere Real Estate, donated the decorating talents of her staff Stacy Rysemus who turned a huge empty room into a festive, warm atmosphere.

Kelli Lynn, Event Coordinator photographed everyone and made clean-up a snap aided by two officers and Wilma Daniels.

From a financial standpoint, it took some big help to pay for signs and while we still expect some donations, the following people are heartfully thanked: Dr. Gaddis, Ricardo Pruneda, Dr. Tracy DeLorm, Keith Akins (State Farm), Ace Hardware, Mike Liberato, Joyce Bell, Tom Thumb Grocery and Wells Fargo Bank.

Thank you all for helping to say "Thank You to honor Lake Stevens' first Responders"! See you next year!

Dr. Darlene Castle
Lake Stevens