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Our Salute to Chris Smith: 29 Years of Serving Our Community Proudly

submitted by Alex Rogalla, Steward & Overseer, Orchard Markets



Every now and then, it is good to take a step or two back away from the everyday routine and spend some time pondering those around you that you are truly thankful and grateful for. So with that being said, I wanted to express my sincere thankfulness for an employee who has been with us for almost 30 years and if you have been around the community awhile and frequent Fruitport Orchard Market, you have surely interacted with and likely had your groceries taken out by our very own Chris Smith. Chris started his bagger/utility clerk position at the store back in 1996 through a FCS student work related program where he continued to grow and thrive both socially and within his job role and eventually over time was hired in and continued to excel on his position.

Within his role, Chris is responsible for many duties including general cleaning, bottle room maintenance, sweeping, mopping, and vacuuming, parking lot cleanliness, winter shoveling, and more but his main daily duty and top priority is customer service. That's where Chris shines brightest, that's his favorite part of the job, making sure that his customer's groceries are bagged properly, taken to, and placed in their vehicle with care. Serving the people of the community where he went to school is very important to Chris, he's a proud Trojan graduate and loves to give back to the community by serving and taking care of his customers well.

Chris has worked for several different owners over his time at the grocery store and has been around to experience some real pressing times for the community as well including the straight wind storms and power outages of the late 90's and more recently the Covid-19 virus outbreak beginning in 2020. These were times where the community needed to come together and Chris was right there on the frontline serving and taking care of his customers, always putting others first.

When asked what is the biggest thing that you have learned over the years, Chris replied "taking care of people is always the first priority, no matter what else needs to be done, the customer is always first." And what would you tell someone who is interested in applying for a position like yours? Chris replied "you must first be genuinely kind to all of the customers and always be willing to help them out whenever you can." Well said Chris, not only do you see the quality and value in serving others but you model it and live it out each day by serving and caring for those within our community. We are so very thankful for you Big Dog!

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