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News Release

WEST CARROLLTON FIREFIGHTER RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Andrew Shepherd, a firefighter-paramedic with the West Carrollton fire department, received the Leadership Award from the Antioch Shrine Center on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

When he traveled to the award ceremony with Fire Chief Jack Keister, Shepherd said he had no idea where they were going. “I just kept thinking, what did I do?” he said.

Shepherd has served the city since October 1994. Leanne Nash, West Carrollton’s emergency medical services coordinator, nominated Shepherd for the award for his commitment to mentoring new firefighters.

“Taking time to make sure that the new people and the veterans are kept up to date on the most recent medical procedures available is just one part of his leadership,” Nash said. “He is looked up to, not only by his peers, but also by the newcomers,” she said.

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Shepherd also coordinates the department's annual "Fill the Boot" campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association during the annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day weekend telethon.

Shepherd said the driving force behind his decision to become a paramedic was the death of his 18-year-old brother, Joe, due to a car accident in 1993.

"I was a volunteer firefighter at the time and I didn't think that I was going to take it any further than that," he said. "When the accident happened, I realized that being a paramedic was definitely something that would interest me."

Having grown up in West Carrollton, Shepherd said that many of the emergency calls that he responds to are for people that he knows. "It's tough sometimes, but I think it's also reassuring for them to see a familiar face," he said.

Shepherd said that he hopes the award is also a tribute to the people who have mentored him during his career. "I've been fortunate to have some great leaders and mentors who have really helped me."

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For media interviews, call **Andy Shepherd** at (937) 859-8625. Call **Leanne Nash** at (937) 847-4647.