

HELP WANTED

Recently, Michigan REALTOR® Patrick Moore of Rowling Real Estate, Inc. in Fort Gratiot received the National Association of REALTORS® Good Neighbor Award for his work with Harvest of Haiti, a nonprofit humanitarian outreach program that treats close to 3,500 people per year. Out of more than 320 entries, Moore and four others were honored for the impact one person can make. He provides clean water and medical care that saves lives. If that isn't enough, Moore also helps people in Michigan achieve the dream of homeownership, is a fire fighter and father of two teenagers and a six-year old.

Why and when did you become a REALTOR®?

I got my Real-estate License 26 years ago. My two very close friends, Chuck and John Rowling, worked for their Dad, who at the time had a very large company. I knew a lot of people and it seemed like a perfect fit. Also, at that time I was waiting to be hired as a full-time fire fighter in the city of Port Huron. Eight years later, I was hired.

Since becoming a REALTOR®, what has been your greatest achievement? Is there

anything you regret in your REALTOR® career to date, or would have done differently?

I have no regrets about being a REALTOR®. I work at it every day, even at the fire station. Now that we have entered the computer world in real estate, all you need is a laptop and a cell phone. My greatest achievement in real estate has been the fact that no one has fired me as the REALTOR® because I know I am honest with everyone and only promise things I know I can deliver. It was that approach that landed me a very large sale, not one time, but two

times on the same house in a very short period. Also, I will never forget what NAR did for my non-profit and me by choosing me and four other REALTORS® as Good Neighbors.

How do you view Michigan's troubled economy after spending so much time in Haiti where there is much more desperation?

You cannot compare Haiti to Michigan in any way, shape or form. If you tried, you would find that no one would be working, most would be eating one small meal at night, have no health care, and living in a home



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we would call a tool shed. Michigan is in deep trouble, as well as our real estate industry. It takes 10 times the effort to sell a property now than it did when times were good. And the longer this goes on, the more the good times seem like a distant memory.

What advice would you give to REALTORS® in Michigan that are finding it hard to make a living in the current market and are struggling?

If someone were to ask me that, the only answer I would have is look for another job. I am very lucky to work for the fire department that requires 10 days a month of my time. Many local REALTORS® are doing just that - getting other jobs and placing their license in escrow. Very tough question to answer.

How are you involved in your local community?

I am on the stewardship council at the church I attend. Sometimes, when time allows, I work at the local soup kitchen and I support Mother Hill House of Hope. This is a homeless shelter where I take clothing and shoes and also donate a little money when I can. But most of my time away from work is spent on educating people on the plight of the people of Haiti. I also support anything to do with breast cancer. I have helped during some local fundraisers.

How and/or why would you encourage others to volunteer?

I try to encourage others to help the less fortunate. It is very refreshing to do something for the poor or people who are not as well off as I am or my friends. What they really need to do is take one trip to Haiti with me. It would change their life forever

and they would look upon the people that need help in a very different way. Being able to do what I have been lucky to do has really changed my life forever — for the good.

How has the NAR Good Neighbor Award Exposure impacted you and Harvest for Haiti?

WOW! So many kind REALTORS® from across the country have sent donations. The \$10,000 was a huge boost to our efforts to bring clean drinking water to the villages we serve. Sara Geimer from NAR and her staff did such a perfect job with the entire program that it did inspire others to take a hard look at Haiti and become willing to do something about. The donations I keep getting from agents across the country will help save thousands of men, women, and children from death.

How can members find out more information about Harvest for Haiti?

Sometime soon we will have a website, but until that time, they may call me at 810-531-9374 or email me at gourdman1@comcast.net. I can send them a CD that was played at the National Convention that really tells the story.

The Harvest of Haiti can use all the help we can get. We would like everyone to know that every dollar goes to Haiti. We cover our own overhead and out of our pockets.

**The views expressed in this interview do not necessarily represent the views of the Michigan Association of REALTORS®. If there is a top REALTOR® you would like interviewed, write to ccostello@mirealtors.com.*

Why Volunteer?

When you volunteer you are giving something back to your community by lending a helping hand to people and organizations. What you may not realize is that volunteering also benefits you as an individual. There are many good reasons to get involved. Here are a few:

- Make new friends
- Explore career and personal interests
- Develop marketable job skills
- Build your resume
- Enrich your education
- Uncover hidden skills and talents
- Increase your self-confidence
- Have fun
- Make a difference

Ways to Volunteer:

- Habitat for Humanity
www.habitat.org
800.422.4828
- U.S. Department of Housing
www.hud.gov/volunteering
- 4-H
www.4hvolunteersusa.org
- American Red Cross
www.redcross.org/donate/volunteer
- Red Cross International
www.ifrc.org

Use these sites to search several volunteer options:

- www.networkforgood.org
- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.unitedplanet.org
- www.1-800-volunteer.org

To view a video NAR produced on Moore's work with Harvest of Haiti, visit <http://www.realtor.org/rmomag.nsf/pages/feature1nov07Moore?OpenDocument>