

## Volunteer of the Month Lynn Lake

At one point, early in our conversation Lynn confessed the obvious “ I’m addicted to it” she said. Of course she was referring to picking up the trash on the street and in front of her home on Ashley St. She is well know to all of the resident of Ashley St on both sides of Sigourney St as the “trash lady” (in the good way). It’s not just that you can find her out every morning around 5:00 or 6:00 picking up litter, nor that she is equally famous for the beautiful flowers that grace her home at 96 Ashley St, but it’s the fact she moved to this house in 1983 and that’s when she started her “addiction”.

Actually her addiction goes beyond picking up litter from the neighborhood, she still volunteers at St Francis Hospital where she began when she retired as a nurse at Hartford Hospital. And then there are the awards. She was first recognized by

the City and the Knox Foundation back in 1998. St. Francis honored her in 2011 and Knox gave her another award in 2012, all of them for her volunteer efforts.

As Lynn tells it this all began back in the 60’s when she was Icylen Robertson and living in Jamaica. She heard President John Kennedy say, “ Ask not what your Country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your Country.” It made such an impression that when she had the opportunity to come to the US, which was the result of an act of kindness the previous year, she took it and has never looked back. In short order she brought her three children here to live with her and they were all well educated here in the US and ar professionals. Both mother and children have much to be proud of.

She still laments the fact that some people have so little regard for their surroundings that they will drop litter even a few feet from a trash barrel, but it hasn’t dampened her resolve. However, after nearly 30 years of picking up litter in the neighborhood, she went to the Sigourney Market, the chief source of the litter across the street from her house and, told them that she was 80 years old now and she wasn’t going to clean up their parking lot any more. Sometimes shaming works, and they seem to be making an effort to at least clean up their own property.

Photos of Lynn’s flowers in here back yard and her awards can be seen at:

<https://goo.gl/photos/9S8csQVnJMKgU3mV9>

