

Steve Hartman Spreads Good News From Toledo to CBS

Steve Hartman has come a long way.

The Toledo native started as an intern at WTOL, handling stories most people wouldn't exactly consider "hard news."

"My first story was about a Cabbage Patch birthday party," he said.

But Hartman worked his way up through the ranks of broadcast journalism and now enjoys a spot on the CBS News team. His segments, which include "Everybody Has a Story" and "Assignment America," focus on telling the stories of average people from across the country and around the world.

The stories he tells and people he meets are each inspiring in their own way, and they often provide a contrast to the less-than-happy news that dominates most stations.

"News is extremely important, but the downside is it presents a skewed vision of what our country and communities are like," he said. "What I do helps offset that. It's not all bad."

From the beginning of his career, Hartman enjoyed telling the stories that came toward the end of the news broadcast, the "feel-good" stories. He said while everyone else was clamoring for the hard news segments that would prove their journalistic chops, he preferred stories like the Cabbage Patch party that made people feel good about the state of things.

Hartman's good-news segments and his Northwest Ohio roots inspired attorney Charles Boyk of the Charles E. Boyk Law Offices to start the Good News Good People contest, and for those reasons Hartman has been chosen as the first winner of the contest.

"Steve Hartman is a symbol that common sense and telling a good story can make you a huge success. He inspires me to look for the good in everybody," said Attorney Boyk.

Hartman said his upbringing in Toledo was a pleasant one, noting that he "wouldn't change a thing" about his time living here. He loved high school (he's a St. John's alum) and said he was in the city at a good time as a young adult, when Party in the Park was thriving.

He also said his travels since he lived in Toledo have shown him that community pride can be found everywhere.

"Wherever I go people always find good things to say about their town. Any town can be the best place in the world. It comes down to the people who live there," he said.

So who is the most inspiring person Hartman knows?

"The guy who fixes my lawnmower," he said. "Everyone says you have to go to college and all that, but this guy amazes me. He's so dedicated and passionate about his job."

That observation embodies the spirit of Good News Good People—that everyone, no matter who they are or where they live, can be an inspiration.



Steve Hartman