

An open and candid letter from one of those "first responder" people you keep hearing about lately:

*Hello there; I am an EMT-B and Interior Firefighter with the Sinclairville Volunteer Fire Company. I am one of those people who are going to show right up when you have things go wrong. No matter whether you are hurt, sick, involved in a car accident, have something catch fire that shouldn't, or simply have a flooded basement we are going to be there to help it go right again.*

*Lately it seems quite popular to offer free coffee, free donuts, give us discounts, make signs, run some truly wonderful advertisements and generally say thank you in a multitude of ways. To be sure; you are welcome, you are welcome a hundred times over, more than you know. Being appreciated means a lot when you're doing a job.*

*But the problem is, that is not what I need. A free cup of coffee is not what I truly need at all! I need your help; I genuinely need your hands on, in person, join a volunteer fire company kind of help. As the old Uncle Sam recruitment poster used to say, "I NEED YOU". Now I know what you're thinking, there is no way you could do that, well you're wrong, you most certainly could! Let me explain.*

*In 2012 I joined a fire company having zero experience and no special skills either, I was also already over 40 and weighed less than 150 lbs soaking wet. But I wanted to help my community; I wanted to do something bigger than myself. I wanted to make a difference. Soon enough, the fire company and Chautauqua County gave me the free training and experience to do just that, all I had to do was some learning and some growing. The point is, if I did it, you can too. To be sure, we will happily help you, whether firefighting, medical care or simply driving a truck interests you.*

*So I am here to ask you, help me save the world, yes, help me save the world, one sick, hurt or distressed person at a time. I am here to ask you to make a difference, a real difference. Give yourself the opportunity to go to bed at night knowing that you stepped up. Our shrinking numbers in recent years make it imperative that we reach out to the community in this way.*

*In closing, please consider stopping by the fire hall any Tuesday evening or calling our Chief, Joe McKenna, at 450-0687. We would be happy to explain further how you could find a place in our family and make a difference in the lives of those in your community. Please also do not hesitate to spread this message far and wide.*

*THANK YOU for your time and attention to this important matter.*