

Theresa Egly

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - February 2022



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 2.5

Union: OPCMIA

Local: 599

City: Milwaukee, WI

Bio

Theresa started two and a half years ago as a Cement Mason apprentice and has continued to grow and build on her skills, never hesitating to ask questions, volunteer to try something new, and has no shame in putting in the work to master her trade. She is punctual, committed, dedicated and has a work ethic of gold that will carry her through the final year of her apprenticeship. She is an asset to Local 599 and to the OPCMIA.

Why Theresa Was Nominated

I remember Theresa coming into an all women outreach event a few years ago. She was full of interest and questions and was never afraid to give one of the most physically demanding of the trades a try and in fact, wouldn't let me rest until I found her a job. She started in Heavy/highway for an out of town contractor and when the project was complete, she never wavered as she accepted the opportunity to continue as a commercial builder - which is basically like starting over. She's taken every opportunity to become involved with the Union, taken every opportunity she could to advance her skills and to learn new parts of the trade. I was particularly moved by her



generosity and her grit this year at our holiday party...we held a 50/50 raffle to raise money for a local homeless shelter for women. Theresa took every penny she had in her wallet and bought raffle tickets because as someone who grew up in situations where these places were a part of her life and she wanted to give back. The total for the raffle came up to almost \$900 which would have left this mom of two making it on her own with \$450 extra bucks for the holiday - which we can all appreciate. Theresa won the raffle, and never thought twice about donating all of the money right back to the cause and wouldn't even take the \$60 she used to buy tickets. She demanded that all of the money go to the cause and she made it known that this career path has allowed her to change her life and that she has enough money and wanted to pay it back - or forward. I was moved to tears by her generosity and sense of duty towards helping others. She hasn't had an easy life but is aware and proud that her trade has changed her life and she is a very special person and an example of a tradeswoman HERO if I have ever known one. She's going to be an amazing journeywoman soon and a great example of strength and perseverance and advocate for those watching - including the two beautiful young ladies that she is raising.