

## **The Sally Wellman Volunteer Award - Timothy Diko**

I want to nominate Timothy Diko for this award for his commitment to our local refugee and immigrant population in Spokane. Timothy has been an ESL teacher for over 20+ years. He has been a full time instructor at Mukogawa, and he has taught and lived abroad in Japan and also in Saudi Arabia. He is currently teaching at Mukogawa on a regular basis. While at Mukogawa, he is constantly thinking of ways to collaborate with different teachers at the Community Colleges of Spokane, bringing his ESL Japanese students to classes to work with our refugee and immigrant populations. He has done this for more English conversation for his students and also the students in the ABE ESL programs on campus. He also is conscientious about going to different classes and assisting and working with different teachers. He comprehends that both students not only gain better English skills through practicing with one another but both groups of students expand on understanding one another's global perspectives. He has been completely aware of a balanced exchange and in doing this work has made connections with a variety of teachers throughout the ABE ESL Department.

In addition to that, Mr. Diko has been volunteering the past five years at the Adult Education Center in the evenings weekly. He has been dedicated coming each week and working with students on grammar, and literacy skills. Moreover, he has assisted several students with their first PowerPoint presentations and taught them some basic computer skills. Timothy's kind heart and valuable teaching experience is highly appreciated at our sites. His continuity, and compassion to assisting each immigrant and refugee student he has worked with has been a beacon of hope in a world that may emphasize division at times. He has forged through these tense current political times, and sat with each student offering them an ear, and offering them encouragement. The one-on-one attention that he is able to give the students has allowed the students to achieve their personal goals whether that be to talk to their doctor more easily, or continue on into a professional trade, or go to the community college to study to be a professional. He is very cognizant of the variety of students and the diverse backgrounds they may have and he meets them where they are. His dedication is highly appreciated, and he would be a great candidate for this award.