



Sharing the Spirit of Christmas, Murray Style
By Brett Hales, Mayor of Murray

As the holidays approach, I often find myself reflecting on memories that shaped who I am today, moments that shaped my beliefs about service, gratitude, and love.

One of those memories takes me back to Christmas 1974, when I was a 14-year-old boy, the youngest of eight and, admittedly, a little spoiled. Each year, my parents organized a Sub for Santa, but that year, they decided to involve all of us kids. We gathered gifts for a struggling family nearby. My role was simple: put on the Santa suit, drop off the presents, ring the bell, and make a quick getaway.

But plans changed the moment the door opened. A little boy grabbed my hand and pulled me into their home. Before I knew it, I was sitting in the middle of their living room, handing out gifts one by one. When that same young boy unwrapped a box and shouted, "My very own tennis shoes!" I realized I was witnessing something sacred. Tears filled my eyes under that fake beard as I saw pure joy and gratitude from a family that had so little. That night changed me forever. I learned that the true magic of Christmas is found in giving, not receiving.

A few years later, during my time in Alaska, I learned what it meant to be on the receiving end of service. The people there, whether in Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Soldotna, opened their homes and hearts to me. Every evening seemed to bring a warm meal, a kind conversation, or a reminder that I was cared for. Everyone accepted me just as I was, quirks and all, and showed me unconditional love. Alaska changed my heart for the better. Cindy, who lived there at the same time, and I will forever be grateful for the kindness and generosity we experienced in that beautiful place.

Today, decades later, I continue to see these kinds of beautiful acts of service and kindness everywhere. Through a shared meal, a friendly wave as you drove past, or a small act of service for your neighbor, the spirit of Christmas is alive and well in Murray. Cindy and I are grateful for the people in this city who bless our lives in countless ways. I absolutely love this life and not because it's easy, but because it's filled with people like you.

Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays. May your hearts be full, your homes warm, and your spirits bright.

December 1 – Robinson Carols Sing-Along (SOLD OUT)

December 5 (NEW DATE ADDED)

A cozy Murray tradition singing classic and original carols.

December 8 - Carpenters Legacy Christmas

A holiday tribute featuring the timeless music of Karen and Richard Carpenter.

December 12,13,15,19, 20 (+Matinee on 20th)– Jingle Jacks / Five Carols for Christmas

Shows full of laughter, music, and holiday cheer.

December 14 - Ceasar Sings Nat King Cole

An elegant evening honoring the velvet voice of Nat King Cole.

Tickets available at www.MurrayTix.com