

0:00:09.875,0:00:12.041
Welcome, everybody, to the Ogden
Way podcast.

0:00:12.041,0:00:14.791
I'm Ogden City Mayor Ben Nadolski,
and we're here to talk about

0:00:14.791,0:00:17.833
the stories of Ogden
by telling the stories of Ogden's people.

0:00:18.291,0:00:22.125
And today we're joined by Meghan Kelly
with Utah Neighborhood Connection.

0:00:22.625,0:00:26.541
And, Meghan,
you're somebody who embodies the Ogden way

0:00:26.541,0:00:28.791
because you saw a need and you stepped up.

0:00:28.791,0:00:30.625
That's what we do here in Ogden, right?

0:00:30.625,0:00:31.416
Right.

0:00:31.416,0:00:33.583
So thanks for coming to be with us today.

0:00:33.583,0:00:34.375
Appreciate having you.

0:00:34.375,0:00:35.375
Thanks for having me.

0:00:35.375,0:00:35.791
Yeah.

0:00:35.791,0:00:40.375
So, this nonprofit's a somewhat
of a new nonprofit, right?

0:00:40.541,0:00:41.208
Absolutely.

0:00:41.208,0:00:45.291
For those of us that are unaware,
can you can you share more about

0:00:45.875,0:00:47.666
what you guys do? Yeah.

0:00:47.666,0:00:52.416
So, Utah Neighborhood Connection
kind of came about as Covid response.

0:00:52.666,0:00:55.000
We launched during 2020.

0:00:55.000,0:00:59.125
But it also goes a couple of years
further back than that.

0:00:59.375,0:01:04.958
My mom is actually a pastor
of a local church on Second Street.

0:01:05.708,0:01:10.000
And when she began pastoring,
she noticed that the back parking

0:01:10.000,0:01:14.083
lot of the school, which faced
Highland Junior High, was full of cars.

0:01:14.083,0:01:15.458

Every single day

0:01:15.458,0:01:19.708

of parents doing school pick up, kids crossing through on their way home.

0:01:20.083,0:01:23.083

And she wanted to get involved with the community.

0:01:23.166,0:01:27.250

So she started doing, what they called coffee and cocoa.

0:01:27.375,0:01:31.291

So every Tuesday she would give coffee to parents

0:01:31.291,0:01:34.625

and cars, cocoa to kids who were walking home.

0:01:34.708,0:01:37.208

And then it just kind of grew.

0:01:37.208,0:01:41.000

So more snacks were involved, but also more kids.

0:01:41.041,0:01:43.583

It was more than just Highland coming anymore.

0:01:43.583,0:01:47.833

It was Leadership Learning Academy, Bonneville Elementary, Ben Lomond High.

0:01:48.125,0:01:50.708

We had like 300 kids on a Tuesday.

0:01:50.708,0:01:52.291

It was pretty wild.

0:01:52.291,0:01:53.125

I yeah.

0:01:53.125,0:01:57.041

And so while that was operating,

0:01:57.041,0:02:00.041

began getting to know some of the students stories.

0:02:00.041,0:02:03.208

There was one student living in a car

0:02:03.208,0:02:06.500

with their parents in a friend's driveway.

0:02:06.541,0:02:07.500

There was a student

0:02:07.500,0:02:11.250

who was cooking dinner on a hot plate in their bedroom at night.

0:02:11.291,0:02:14.750

And so just a lot of painful situations.

0:02:14.916,0:02:18.375

So when Covid started, it was like,

0:02:19.333,0:02:22.291

these kids are home and they have they got everything got harder.

0:02:23.625,0:02:26.916

And so there's a lot of red tape
with being a church.

0:02:26.916,0:02:31.125
A lot of people are thinking
maybe there's a double motive happening.

0:02:31.125,0:02:34.666
And so it's like, okay,
what does it look like to start

0:02:34.666,0:02:38.958
a non-religious nonprofit
that runs in the building during the week?

0:02:39.000,0:02:42.000
And then the church just meets
in the building on Sundays?

0:02:42.333,0:02:44.708
So we got that up and running,

0:02:44.708,0:02:48.000
and began doing free grocery events.

0:02:48.250,0:02:53.083
So we had the Farmers to Families grant
that was going on during Covid.

0:02:53.208,0:02:58.750
So we were serving like 350 food boxes,
once a week.

0:02:59.000,0:03:00.416
That's a lot. Yeah.

0:03:00.416,0:03:01.416
For two years.

0:03:01.416,0:03:07.500
And so, and that's when we were able to
launch our afterschool program, which was

0:03:07.500,0:03:12.875
the original vision was getting the kids
in the building where they had safety.

0:03:12.875,0:03:15.875
They had, homework support.

0:03:15.875,0:03:17.791
They had one meal.

0:03:17.791,0:03:19.375
And then we've been doing that.

0:03:19.375,0:03:21.041
This is our third year.

0:03:21.041,0:03:22.166
Wow. Good for you.

0:03:22.166,0:03:22.625
That's a lot.

0:03:22.625,0:03:25.083
That's a lot of work. In the short
period of time.

0:03:25.083,0:03:27.625
It's been really special. Yeah. Yeah.

0:03:27.625,0:03:29.750
Well, you know,
you said you ran into a lot of red tape

0:03:29.750,0:03:32.041
because of the crossover

between the nonprofit and the faith.

0:03:33.166,0:03:34.625

I actually

0:03:34.625,0:03:38.166

I saw a lot of great alignment
because the faith community

0:03:38.166,0:03:41.083

is like the original social service
community

0:03:41.083,0:03:44.083

for our country and communities,
and it still is today.

0:03:44.166,0:03:44.791

In large part.

0:03:44.791,0:03:46.125

And so Ogden???s known

0:03:46.125,0:03:49.125

for having such a diverse number of faiths
throughout our city.

0:03:49.416,0:03:53.583

And the positioning of your church right
next to the school is such a perfect fit

0:03:53.583,0:03:56.583

for kids, for after school. And it's a

0:03:56.750,0:03:58.625

I mean, it's just perfect.

0:03:58.625,0:03:59.916

It is perfect, right? Yeah.

0:03:59.916,0:04:03.250

And then to have you and your mom
and probably many, many others

0:04:03.250,0:04:06.125

that have contributed that saw the need
stepped up and filled need.

0:04:06.125,0:04:08.250

Right. That's what community does.

0:04:08.250,0:04:11.583

It's also what we do in the Ogden way
we we take accountability for ourselves.

0:04:11.583,0:04:13.833

But we always look to it to our left
and to our right

0:04:13.833,0:04:16.208

and look to see
who needs lifting and helping.

0:04:16.208,0:04:18.416

And that's what you've done. Right.

0:04:18.416,0:04:21.708

So how many kids how many kids
now are you serving and where are they

0:04:21.708,0:04:22.166

coming from.

0:04:22.166,0:04:24.833

They come from the mostly from Highland
Junior High.

0:04:24.833,0:04:25.500

Right.

0:04:25.500,0:04:26.291

Yes. Yeah.

0:04:26.291,0:04:28.916

So majority of our students
go to Highland.

0:04:28.916,0:04:30.250

We have a couple homeschoolers.

0:04:30.250,0:04:36.125

And then we also during the summer,
we do what, what kind of a transition.

0:04:36.125,0:04:39.125

So we accept graduated sixth graders

0:04:39.375,0:04:43.416

so they can meet some kids that will be
at their school the next coming year.

0:04:43.625,0:04:46.625

So we partner with the elementaries

0:04:46.666,0:04:49.750

to get them into the summer program.

0:04:51.041,0:04:52.708

But during the summer, we have closer

0:04:52.708,0:04:55.708

to 30 students, and then during the school
year, we have closer to 20.

0:04:56.500,0:04:57.250

Okay.

0:04:57.250,0:05:00.791

So let's talk about your
maybe your summer programing.

0:05:01.333,0:05:03.250

So I've got two daughters.

0:05:03.250,0:05:06.375

They're of the age now where they're going
to be more and more independent.

0:05:06.375,0:05:10.416

But the those early years are hard
when you're trying to work, and

0:05:10.708,0:05:14.541

especially if you're in a dual income home
or if you're a single mother

0:05:14.541,0:05:17.375

and or single father
trying to make a living

0:05:17.375,0:05:19.958

and having kids at home in
the summer is really hard.

0:05:19.958,0:05:22.208

So to find options for after school care

0:05:22.208,0:05:25.833

and summer care
is hugely important for families, right?

0:05:26.416,0:05:31.250

Yeah, a lot of our students would be home,
playing video games, watching TV.

0:05:31.708,0:05:33.875

A lot of our kids
sign up because they???re like, ???I know

0:05:33.875,0:05:38.083
I'm just going to be bored.??? I know
I myself was bored during the summer.

0:05:38.083,0:05:39.166
Home alone.

0:05:39.166,0:05:40.708
When my parents were at work.

0:05:40.708,0:05:44.083
And so it's just really important,
to be able

0:05:44.083,0:05:47.666
to give students access to things
they wouldn't normally be able to.

0:05:47.666,0:05:53.458
A lot of our students, when we take them
in the summer, like to Salt Lake City.

0:05:53.458,0:05:55.791
They've never been to Salt Lake City
before.

0:05:55.791,0:06:01.125
And so, giving them access to experience
is getting them out of the house,

0:06:01.208,0:06:05.458
getting them involved with their peers,
keeping their minds moving with curriculum

0:06:05.458,0:06:09.333
like all of that is so vital,
to student success.

0:06:09.375,0:06:12.375
And I think, you know,
summer is just a great way.

0:06:12.833,0:06:15.583
To bridge that gap, right?

0:06:15.583,0:06:16.458
I know it's an important time.

0:06:16.458,0:06:18.083
It's also the time that students

0:06:18.083,0:06:21.083
can lose progress
that they made in the academic year.

0:06:21.541,0:06:21.875
Right.

0:06:21.875,0:06:24.833
So you guys, you how do you guys handle
the curriculum piece.

0:06:24.833,0:06:25.166
Yeah.

0:06:25.166,0:06:29.833
So we you know we have changed
our curriculum a couple of times.

0:06:29.833,0:06:33.166
Still trying to figure out
what works best for them. But

0:06:35.083,0:06:37.875
you know we the coaches, that's

what we call our staff.

0:06:37.875,0:06:39.666
We'll run curriculums.

0:06:39.666,0:06:44.333
Sometimes do book clubs
and things like that.

0:06:44.333,0:06:46.166
And,

0:06:46.166,0:06:48.791
if the students need to do credit
make up,

0:06:48.791,0:06:50.541
we're right
across the street from the school

0:06:50.541,0:06:55.666
so they can do their credit makeup
at the school, come over after, Yeah.

0:06:55.750,0:06:57.125
That's great.

0:06:57.125,0:07:01.208
I feel like,
so we've been really intentional

0:07:01.875,0:07:05.416
in my administration in this early period
of my first term that,

0:07:06.375,0:07:08.458
and this is something I heard
from the neighborhood

0:07:08.458,0:07:10.000
when I was knocking on doors
up in the north.

0:07:10.000,0:07:13.666
Is that people wanted more support
on the north side of town.

0:07:14.458,0:07:15.416
And we talked about

0:07:15.416,0:07:19.041
the kind of support that they wanted
and how we can make those things happen.

0:07:19.208,0:07:21.916
And so that's that's
really what we started here

0:07:21.916,0:07:25.000
in my administration, is making sure
that when we talk about resources,

0:07:25.000,0:07:28.291
we talk about programs and projects, that
we really start talking about the North.

0:07:28.750,0:07:31.458
And we want to make sure that we do it
in a way that doesn't take our foot

0:07:31.458,0:07:33.916
off the pedal everywhere else. Yeah.

0:07:33.916,0:07:35.708
And the places where we've been focusing.

0:07:35.708,0:07:36.791
And so that's been,

0:07:37.875,0:07:38.291
part of it.

0:07:38.291,0:07:41.791
And I feel like the North
has got its own charm and its own culture.

0:07:41.916,0:07:44.875
The people have it their own
sort of like grit.

0:07:44.875,0:07:47.875
Yeah. And it's like a

0:07:47.958,0:07:50.958
it's like an extra level
of roll up your sleeves, blue collar

0:07:51.500,0:07:54.250
like grit, attitude and ethic to it.

0:07:54.250,0:07:56.375
That I really like and love.

0:07:56.375,0:07:59.375
So I just feel like
when I get to engage in the North End

0:07:59.791,0:08:03.250
it feels, I feel really at home
and I always felt really welcomed.

0:08:04.000,0:08:08.333
So I think you grew up in part
on the north end of town right.

0:08:08.791,0:08:09.750
Yes. Yeah.

0:08:09.750,0:08:12.750
I spent half my time on 15th Street.

0:08:12.958,0:08:15.125
I currently now
still live on the north end.

0:08:15.125,0:08:16.541
I live between third and fourth.

0:08:16.541,0:08:19.750
I just love that area. I think it's,

0:08:21.000,0:08:23.291
it is neat, special.

0:08:23.291,0:08:25.958
And yeah, it does.

0:08:25.958,0:08:26.958
It needs support.

0:08:26.958,0:08:31.500
You know, that little area right
there is classified as a food desert.

0:08:32.166,0:08:35.958
It's also classified as a book desert
that one surprises people sometimes.

0:08:36.916,0:08:39.375
Average home has less than ten books.

0:08:39.375,0:08:41.416
Isn't that interesting? Okay.

0:08:41.416,0:08:43.666
I didn't know that was who measures that.

0:08:43.666,0:08:45.666
There isn't, like a book organization.

0:08:45.666,0:08:47.333
Okay.

0:08:47.333,0:08:48.791
Oh. That's interesting. Yeah. Okay.

0:08:48.791,0:08:51.916
So we have a book box
in our parking lot,

0:08:51.916,0:08:55.375
and it gets a lot of action
because the kids walking home from school,

0:08:55.500,0:08:59.000
when we have our free grocery events,
families will stop and get books out.

0:09:00.375,0:09:03.375
But when we got that, you

0:09:03.708,0:09:08.583
classify where your book box is and
it tells you where what your area book.

0:09:08.583,0:09:10.166
Oh, geography is like. Okay.

0:09:10.166,0:09:13.125
So you and we are a book desert. Okay.

0:09:13.125,0:09:15.000
Well, there's something we could focus on
actually.

0:09:15.000,0:09:16.625
Yeah, it's pretty practical.

0:09:16.625,0:09:18.875
Means it's easier to fill. Yeah.

0:09:18.875,0:09:19.875
So you said.

0:09:19.875,0:09:23.125
You said the north end of town
is really neat and special to you?

0:09:23.291,0:09:24.291
Yeah. Like, what is it about?

0:09:25.291,0:09:26.041
I kind of share a little bit

0:09:26.041,0:09:29.791
about what I feel when I'm there
and when I'm with people.

0:09:30.208,0:09:33.916
What is it that draws you to the north
and that you love about that neighborhood?

0:09:34.458,0:09:36.666
Yeah,
I think part of it for me is nostalgia.

0:09:36.666,0:09:40.083
And just having grown up there,
it just feels like home.

0:09:41.125,0:09:43.916
But part of it
I'm just discovering all the time.

0:09:43.916,0:09:48.166

Like,
we just last month that our free event,

0:09:48.250,0:09:51.791

we had this boy, who came through in him

0:09:52.541,0:09:55.541

like a little sedan,
and he filled it with food for himself.

0:09:55.541,0:09:56.000

Right.

0:09:56.000,0:09:59.958

And then he came back through,
like, ten minutes later,

0:10:00.583,0:10:03.375

and he's like, actually,
my neighbor needs food, too.

0:10:03.375,0:10:05.541

Can I get some more? Like, of course.

0:10:05.541,0:10:10.000

So he filled it up, and then ten minutes
later, oh, he's back again.

0:10:10.000,0:10:12.458

And he's like,
my other neighbor needs food.

0:10:12.458,0:10:14.416

I just feel like that

0:10:16.208,0:10:17.625

is so special and just.

0:10:17.625,0:10:18.833

And it's not unique.

0:10:18.833,0:10:23.000

Like, that's happening all the time
where people are looking after each other.

0:10:23.375,0:10:23.708

They're.

0:10:23.708,0:10:28.416

People are, like,
pulling into a parking spot

0:10:28.458,0:10:30.375

because they want to

0:10:30.375,0:10:33.375

build their own food box to take home,
but they also want to help out.

0:10:33.375,0:10:34.958

So they want to load trucks, too.

0:10:34.958,0:10:38.958

You know, and I just feel like
I see that everywhere, right?

0:10:38.958,0:10:43.583

Where the parents of our afterschool
kids are donating themselves

0:10:43.583,0:10:47.875

like supplies or,
asking how they can lend a hand or if.

0:10:48.375,0:10:53.250

And I just feel like
it's like a scrappy area where scrappy.

0:10:53.625,0:10:55.041
It's great.

0:10:55.041,0:10:55.375
Yeah.

0:10:55.375,0:10:58.416
Where it's like, I need help,
but I also want to give help.

0:10:58.583,0:10:59.291
Yeah.

0:10:59.291,0:11:02.375
Yeah, I know, I,
I feel like the North in town is like,

0:11:03.583,0:11:05.791
again, like on steroids.

0:11:05.791,0:11:07.625
You know,
like all of the good things about Ogden.

0:11:07.625,0:11:10.625
And it's just heightened
and intensified in the north

0:11:10.625,0:11:13.625
and the the sense of service
that we have for each other,

0:11:14.083,0:11:18.250
the just the camaraderie
and the scrappiness.

0:11:18.250,0:11:20.250
Like, I'm just a scrappy town, right?

0:11:20.250,0:11:22.500
We're scrappy people.
Sometimes we use scrappy language.

0:11:22.500,0:11:23.625
Yeah, right.

0:11:23.625,0:11:25.416
Yeah. Like,

0:11:25.416,0:11:27.833
I, I try to be a scrappy mayor, frankly.

0:11:27.833,0:11:30.833
And I'm only electable here
because this is Ogden, you know.

0:11:32.125,0:11:34.000
But I really feel like the North

0:11:34.000,0:11:37.000
End embodies us a lot.

0:11:37.125,0:11:39.791
So I've been really enjoying my engagement
there and I look forward

0:11:39.791,0:11:42.958
to deeper and more continued engagement
and look forward to having your help

0:11:42.958,0:11:44.791
in that actually

0:11:44.791,0:11:47.708
the word connection.

0:11:47.708,0:11:49.791

Utah neighborhood connection.

0:11:49.791,0:11:50.416

Like you hit

0:11:51.666,0:11:53.958

such a note with me with that.

0:11:53.958,0:11:58.708

Because there's so much connecting
to do here in Ogden.

0:11:58.750,0:12:00.458

You know. Yes.

0:12:00.458,0:12:02.625

I mean that must did that word

0:12:02.625,0:12:06.500

have like a nexus
in the beginnings of the organization.

0:12:07.208,0:12:10.208

Yes. Yeah.

0:12:10.333,0:12:14.500

You know, the way because when we entered
the nonprofit world, we knew nothing.

0:12:14.625,0:12:16.333

Right.

0:12:16.333,0:12:17.958

All we knew was

0:12:17.958,0:12:21.666

that areas need
and that that wasn't being filled yet.

0:12:21.666,0:12:25.125

And we wanted to step in,
but we didn't know anything

0:12:25.125,0:12:28.416

about the nonprofit world
and how to do that.

0:12:28.416,0:12:33.250

And so, we called one friend
who we knew had a nonprofit,

0:12:33.791,0:12:36.291

and she connected us to another friend

0:12:36.291,0:12:39.375

who connected us to another friend
who connected to us to another friend.

0:12:40.000,0:12:41.875

And there was no gatekeeping.

0:12:41.875,0:12:44.833

They were wide open,
just ready to help us,

0:12:44.833,0:12:48.666

get that started and support us
and champion us.

0:12:48.666,0:12:51.625

And that was really powerful to us.

0:12:51.625,0:12:56.083

And it also, was kind of a model to us
of how we wanted to be.

0:12:56.083,0:12:56.833

Right?

0:12:56.833,0:12:59.958
We don't think that we can fill
every need of our neighborhood.

0:12:59.958,0:13:00.250
Right.

0:13:00.250,0:13:03.583
And so we want to be able to
when people come to us

0:13:03.583,0:13:07.666
and they need a resource we don't have,
we want to point them to who has it.

0:13:07.666,0:13:11.250
And so we want to be
we receive connection.

0:13:11.250,0:13:13.875
And then we also want to give
that connection back.

0:13:13.875,0:13:14.750
That's beautiful. Yeah.

0:13:15.875,0:13:18.625
I find in my experience as a mayor

0:13:18.625,0:13:24.000
that there are a lot of people
that are hungry for, opportunity.

0:13:24.000,0:13:27.166
They want to do the work,
they want to level up

0:13:27.666,0:13:32.041
or they run into barriers and challenges
that are kind of common in life. And,

0:13:33.208,0:13:35.083
and the unfortunate thing and sometimes

0:13:35.083,0:13:38.083
it makes me feel heartened
and sometimes it makes me feel sad is that

0:13:39.083,0:13:41.083
they struggle
to get through these barriers, in part

0:13:41.083,0:13:43.791
because they just don't know where to turn
or where the answers are.

0:13:43.791,0:13:46.041
And so it's heartening
because there's answers out

0:13:46.041,0:13:49.166
there, and oftentimes we have the answers
with us because we get to

0:13:49.875,0:13:53.083
meet so many people and and in the work
that we do in the position that I have.

0:13:53.083,0:13:54.333
Right, right.

0:13:54.333,0:13:57.458
But it's it's saddening
that there's so many people out there.

0:13:57.458,0:13:59.500
They're just missing that connection.

0:13:59.500,0:14:00.291

Right. Right.

0:14:00.291,0:14:01.916

And so I use that term a lot.

0:14:01.916,0:14:03.291

And that's what really,

0:14:04.291,0:14:05.291

drove Cindy to

0:14:05.291,0:14:08.291

introduce me to you and,
and this connection we're making.

0:14:09.125,0:14:11.833

Is that word it and that it's not just a
word, it's a verb.

0:14:11.833,0:14:14.250

It's a do. It's
something that we need here.

0:14:14.250,0:14:14.750

You know.

0:14:14.750,0:14:18.041

Yeah.

The people deserve and need in the city.

0:14:18.083,0:14:20.375

So I really appreciate that
you guys do that

0:14:20.375,0:14:24.375

and that you have that ethos in your mind,
and then your spirit and your soul.

0:14:24.375,0:14:25.958

I can feel it. You know?

0:14:25.958,0:14:26.708

Yeah.

0:14:26.708,0:14:29.375

So thank you for doing that.

0:14:29.375,0:14:31.541

What are the
what are the kinds of connections

0:14:31.541,0:14:34.541

that you see most frequently

0:14:35.083,0:14:38.166

in that neighborhood
that people are kind of needing the most.

0:14:38.166,0:14:43.541

And, or is there even a theme or is there
commonality or are they so different?

0:14:43.958,0:14:44.500

You know.

0:14:44.500,0:14:46.791

Yeah.

I feel like every story is different.

0:14:48.666,0:14:49.541

And so

0:14:49.541,0:14:53.750

it is
hard to pinpoint what most frequently,

0:14:56.250,0:14:59.250

People are looking for,

0:15:00.458,0:15:03.458

yeah.

I feel like people are lonely.

0:15:03.458,0:15:04.541

That's a huge thing.

0:15:04.541,0:15:07.000

So people are looking for community.

0:15:07.000,0:15:12.041

Food, we're in a major food shortage
right now, so we're only meeting

0:15:12.041,0:15:16.208

part of a needs, so we're often
having to send people out that way.

0:15:16.875,0:15:19.375

A lot of people are looking
for mental health resources.

0:15:19.375,0:15:21.250

That's a big one up on the north end.

0:15:21.250,0:15:24.125

Yeah,

I would say maybe those are the big.

0:15:24.125,0:15:27.125

Those are the big ones.

0:15:27.666,0:15:29.333

You know the,

0:15:29.333,0:15:30.583

the social piece.

0:15:30.583,0:15:32.000

Looking for company, looking for.

0:15:32.000,0:15:34.000

They're feeling lonely.

0:15:34.000,0:15:36.666

That's one of the and that is one of
the initiatives within the Ogden Way.

0:15:36.666,0:15:39.666

So the Ogden Way it's got seven
pillars of human success we call them.

0:15:39.666,0:15:43.666

And it kind of identifies the main areas
that everybody needs access to,

0:15:44.375,0:15:48.666

to opportunities and things in our lives
in order to have a well-rounded life.

0:15:48.666,0:15:53.291

And, and, and it's kind of structure
to meet people where they're from, basic

0:15:53.291,0:15:56.666

survival all the way to thriving and
and stepping into your ultimate greatness.

0:15:56.666,0:15:57.166

You know,

0:15:58.541,0:16:01.625

but one of those main things of,
of our happiness

0:16:01.625,0:16:04.625
in our health is meaningful
social connections with each other.

0:16:04.916,0:16:05.833
Right.
So that's

0:16:05.833,0:16:09.166
that's actually an initiative that we have
in the city that we are driving.

0:16:09.166,0:16:12.166
And there are programs
we run, events that we do,

0:16:12.250,0:16:14.833
to make sure
that we're bringing each other together.

0:16:14.833,0:16:18.125
Like you just feel so much better
when you're with each other and connected

0:16:18.125,0:16:19.041
with each other, right?

0:16:19.041,0:16:19.625
Absolutely.

0:16:19.625,0:16:22.625
I mean, you told me about

0:16:23.083,0:16:26.000
spending some time
living in Layton and missing Ogden,

0:16:26.000,0:16:29.000
and you're always telling people
you should go to Ogden, right?

0:16:29.083,0:16:30.791
Missing that connection.

0:16:30.791,0:16:32.625
Because you missed us. You missed it.

0:16:32.625,0:16:35.708
You missed being having that
fulfilling connection with each other.

0:16:35.791,0:16:37.416
Right. Right.

0:16:37.416,0:16:40.291
So I would love to work with you

0:16:40.291,0:16:43.458
on connecting more people
to more programs and resources.

0:16:45.000,0:16:47.666
It sounds like you've
made a lot of good connections yourself.

0:16:47.666,0:16:48.208
Absolutely.

0:16:48.208,0:16:51.333
But there are,
I'm told, 800 nonprofits in this county.

0:16:52.125,0:16:55.875
There are service providers
and resources galore in this county.

0:16:55.875,0:16:58.083
And then in this city in particular.

0:16:58.083,0:17:01.125
And we're still getting to know more
and more and meaning more and more.

0:17:02.125,0:17:05.125
And that's part of why we do these
things, is to understand who's doing what

0:17:05.625,0:17:09.041
and how does it align with the work
that we're doing and still need to do so

0:17:09.041,0:17:12.708
that collectively,
not just the city, but all of us together

0:17:13.333,0:17:17.291
are providing opportunities to lift people
and help them lift themselves.

0:17:17.333,0:17:18.583
You know? Yeah.

0:17:18.583,0:17:19.458
So I'd love to talk to you

0:17:19.458,0:17:22.458
about opportunities
to connect with our recreation programs.

0:17:22.666,0:17:25.125
To connect kids and adults, if they want,

0:17:25.125,0:17:28.000
with, opportunities in, in the arts.

0:17:28.000,0:17:31.000
And then opportunities in the economic

0:17:31.000,0:17:33.500
sphere, we have tons of,

0:17:33.500,0:17:37.166
opportunities for people to up learn
so that they can up earn more.

0:17:37.291,0:17:38.041
Right?

0:17:38.041,0:17:40.750
Because the cost of living
is so challenging right now.

0:17:40.750,0:17:41.291
Absolutely.

0:17:41.291,0:17:44.875
There's just not a ton that I can do
to control macroeconomics.

0:17:45.250,0:17:46.250
Right.

0:17:46.250,0:17:49.041
And so one of the things we can do
the most obviously give people opportunity

0:17:49.041,0:17:51.083
to, to, to earn.

0:17:51.083,0:17:52.666
And sometimes that requires up learning.

0:17:52.666,0:17:55.583
And we've got the partners and the anchors
that can help us with that.

0:17:55.583,0:17:56.625

Right.

0:17:56.625,0:17:59.625

So I think you're you're positioning it

0:17:59.625,0:18:01.833

not just in your mission
but the location next to the schools.

0:18:02.833,0:18:04.375

Schools draw families, draw kids.

0:18:04.375,0:18:05.583

Right. Right.

0:18:05.583,0:18:07.625

I think that you could be
a really valuable partner

0:18:07.625,0:18:09.333

for helping
to make those kinds of connections.

0:18:09.333,0:18:15.375

What what are you hoping to achieve
in the next in the, in the near future.

0:18:15.375,0:18:17.458

Are you focused
solely on the missions already have

0:18:17.458,0:18:19.333

or do you have bigger goals
that you're looking to.

0:18:19.333,0:18:21.041

Yeah.

0:18:21.041,0:18:25.333

We are looking to expand
into adult education as well.

0:18:25.416,0:18:30.125

That's been something
requested of us from certain families.

0:18:30.125,0:18:31.375

We serve.

0:18:31.375,0:18:34.958

We don't we would love to partner

0:18:34.958,0:18:38.083

with organizations
that are already doing this really well.

0:18:38.166,0:18:40.750

So we don't reinvent the wheel.

0:18:40.750,0:18:45.291

But if they could operate at our site
so that our families can have access.

0:18:46.041,0:18:47.166

That would be wonderful.

0:18:47.166,0:18:49.708

That's
something we're looking to expand into.

0:18:51.708,0:18:53.125

And then beyond that, I'm not sure.

0:18:53.125,0:18:55.791

Yeah. We said that
actually what we're already doing.

0:18:55.791,0:18:59.041
Well, that actually ties in really good
with our initiatives because,

0:19:00.458,0:19:02.666
what I don't want to do, I want to

0:19:02.666,0:19:06.458
we spend a lot of time and resource
creating a kind of an opportunity here.

0:19:06.666,0:19:07.125
Yeah.

0:19:07.125,0:19:09.791
And in particular,
we bring new employers here.

0:19:09.791,0:19:13.916
We, sometimes we work with the governor's
office and other partners, etc., to,

0:19:13.916,0:19:15.750
to bring huge opportunities.

0:19:15.750,0:19:19.583
But other times
we're just facilitating, business growth,

0:19:20.250,0:19:23.625
which comes with really organic need for,
for the workforce.

0:19:24.416,0:19:27.916
And for me, my priority is to make sure
that we are putting our people

0:19:27.916,0:19:31.041
into those opportunities
instead of creating the opportunity

0:19:31.041,0:19:34.958
and then bringing people from the outside
and therefore displacing our people.

0:19:35.083,0:19:35.916
Yeah.

0:19:35.916,0:19:40.000
Like that to me, is how we keep
ourselves Ogden by keeping us

0:19:41.041,0:19:41.708
and then just

0:19:41.708,0:19:44.708
investing in ourselves
and then each other,

0:19:44.916,0:19:47.333
so that we can all level up,
you know what I mean?

0:19:47.333,0:19:48.583
Yeah. Together.

0:19:48.583,0:19:51.375
And so that's my vision and my goal for,

0:19:51.375,0:19:54.375
economic opportunity in our community.

0:19:54.583,0:19:57.791
And so we get a ton of help
from the school district, also from,

0:19:58.666,0:20:02.708
from the, tech college,

which is on your side of town.

0:20:03.250,0:20:06.541

Weber State is a huge anchor in our city,
and they're super helpful.

0:20:07.166,0:20:11.083

All three of those partners
are really focused on helping people

0:20:12.583,0:20:13.541

meet their own goals.

0:20:13.541,0:20:14.916

You know, I mean, absolutely.

0:20:14.916,0:20:19.166

So I think that your your mission would be
a really good fit for us introducing you

0:20:19.166,0:20:22.625

to some of those partners, more talking
about opportunities for fit and alignment.

0:20:23.041,0:20:23.541

Right.

0:20:24.625,0:20:25.625

think we have work to do to
connect the great school kids
to with our programs.

0:20:28.875,0:20:32.291

We have a lot of really great recreation
programs and like

0:20:32.833,0:20:35.875

do you guys run any recreation programs
or connect with recreation at all.

0:20:36.583,0:20:39.875

Yeah.

We haven't really connected

0:20:40.041,0:20:43.041

with other organizations that way.

0:20:43.083,0:20:47.041

We've done field trips
to do different recreational activities,

0:20:47.041,0:20:50.833

but we haven't really developed
a program yet.

0:20:51.208,0:20:53.416

Well,
maybe you don't need to develop a program

0:20:53.416,0:20:54.958

because we already have them
partnering with,

0:20:54.958,0:20:57.958

maybe if you can help introduce
kids to ours.

0:20:58.916,0:21:02.083

We would love to just bring in more
and more kids to participate as well.

0:21:02.333,0:21:05.333

Yeah. For sure. I mean, it's

0:21:05.375,0:21:07.875

most of what we do, everything we do

is exceedingly affordable,

0:21:07.875,0:21:10.125
but also sometimes and often free.

0:21:10.125,0:21:11.750
So it's not a cost thing.

0:21:11.750,0:21:15.000
We want to make sure there's no cost
barriers for kids to participate you know.

0:21:15.083,0:21:19.416
But those are good activities
to give kids mental health as well

0:21:19.416,0:21:21.875
because of that exercising. Right.

0:21:21.875,0:21:25.166
Do you hear anything particular

0:21:25.166,0:21:29.083
about adult education needs or desires
that come up.

0:21:29.083,0:21:32.166
Is it vocational related
or is it like a lifelong learning.

0:21:32.416,0:21:33.125
You know, we've

0:21:34.416,0:21:37.291
people
have asked us for parenting classes.

0:21:37.291,0:21:38.083
Okay.

0:21:38.083,0:21:41.750
And I know
Leadership Learning Academy down the road.

0:21:41.750,0:21:45.041
They said they've been requested
for that quite a bit as well.

0:21:46.916,0:21:51.083
Also some different, like English
second language, things like that.

0:21:51.208,0:21:54.208
Has been requested.

0:21:55.541,0:21:57.875
Yeah.
So I'm not sure

0:21:57.875,0:22:00.083
you know where we'll start first or.

0:22:00.083,0:22:01.166
Yeah.

0:22:01.166,0:22:01.500
Okay.

0:22:01.500,0:22:03.833
We've got another partner
that would be a great introduction too,

0:22:03.833,0:22:06.833
would be, My Hometown Ogden,
have you heard of that? Yes.

0:22:07.125,0:22:08.250
We're going to be.

0:22:08.250,0:22:11.708
I've had, John Watson and Steve
Peterson were on the show

0:22:12.208,0:22:15.125
early on in the tenure of our podcast here
and shared

0:22:15.125,0:22:18.125
a lot of work that they're doing,
and they offer those services.

0:22:18.333,0:22:20.916
And we're really looking to offer more
and more of that involvement

0:22:20.916,0:22:22.083
on the North End. Yeah.

0:22:22.083,0:22:25.083
So maybe that would be a good
that would be a collaboration as well,

0:22:25.250,0:22:27.666
right? Yes. In addition to the

0:22:29.000,0:22:29.916
the service they do

0:22:29.916,0:22:33.000
with like helping people
with their homes, their yards.

0:22:33.000,0:22:35.291
And I mean talk about a way to serve.

0:22:35.291,0:22:37.166
Yeah I love that a right.

0:22:37.166,0:22:40.166
Yeah I know they're incredible.
Yeah. Yeah.

0:22:40.583,0:22:43.583
Do you so it's okay to talk about here?

0:22:43.708,0:22:46.708
I, I know that you have
a little sensitivity because of the,

0:22:47.541,0:22:50.458
the bureaucracy and the barriers
between nonprofit and faith community.

0:22:50.458,0:22:53.458
But tell us a little bit about the faith
that is in the church.

0:22:54.208,0:22:56.541
Is it
what faith is in the church that you're.

0:22:56.541,0:22:58.041
That. Yes. Yeah.

0:22:58.041,0:22:59.500
Yeah. It's a Christian church.

0:22:59.500,0:23:01.541
It's called Crossroads.

0:23:01.541,0:23:03.666
It's four square denomination.

0:23:03.666,0:23:05.750
But please tell us more about it.

0:23:05.750,0:23:08.875
There's we have a real broad
diversity of faith in our city.

0:23:08.916,0:23:09.750
Yeah.

0:23:09.750,0:23:12.250
And so I don't, I don't want to
avoid talking about it. But

0:23:13.458,0:23:14.083
yeah a

0:23:14.083,0:23:17.166
neat thing is they actually were able

0:23:17.166,0:23:20.166
to give us the seed money
to start the organization.

0:23:20.208,0:23:20.916
Okay.

0:23:20.916,0:23:24.916
Foursquare does this thing called
a tithe return where you get.

0:23:25.958,0:23:28.708
I'm not quite sure how it works,
but you get kind of a lump

0:23:28.708,0:23:32.500
sum at the end that you can use for,
like, benevolence.

0:23:32.500,0:23:37.083
And so we were able to use that
to launch the organization

0:23:37.250,0:23:40.333
that we would not be started
without that.

0:23:41.458,0:23:44.250
But, yeah, it's kind of neat.

0:23:44.250,0:23:46.416
The neighborhood we're in has Crossroads.

0:23:46.416,0:23:50.458
There's also a Spanish church
that rents out the building.

0:23:50.458,0:23:54.208
So UNC, the church and the Spanish church
all share.

0:23:54.708,0:23:56.500
Yeah. You're doing it all. Yeah.

0:23:56.500,0:23:59.791
And then next door, there's
another Spanish church, and then we're

0:23:59.791,0:24:03.625
right between two Latter-Day
Saint churches.

0:24:03.625,0:24:06.375
There's so many churches
right on 2nd Street.

0:24:06.375,0:24:08.458
It's kind of wild. It is wild. Yeah.

0:24:08.458,0:24:10.416
But also indicative of service.

0:24:10.416,0:24:11.916
Yeah, absolutely.

0:24:11.916,0:24:14.416
So. And so do you.

0:24:14.416,0:24:16.916
Do you guys have a lot of like
spirit of abundance

0:24:16.916,0:24:19.916
and collaboration
across the churches and the faiths?

0:24:20.000,0:24:20.208
Yeah.

0:24:20.208,0:24:24.125
Still trying to build
relationships with a couple of them.

0:24:25.291,0:24:28.833
But, a lot of our, volunteer,

0:24:29.916,0:24:32.083
power

0:24:32.083,0:24:35.375
manpower comes from the churches,
which is really nice.

0:24:36.416,0:24:37.666
Yeah.

They're all just

0:24:37.666,0:24:41.791
so supportive of what we're doing
and just really love the neighborhood.

0:24:41.791,0:24:42.666
And so

0:24:42.666,0:24:47.208
it's been neat to see people come together
and how many volunteers you guys have.

0:24:47.625,0:24:51.375
For our free grocery events,
it is all hands on deck.

0:24:51.500,0:24:55.375
We get a huge, like,

0:24:55.375,0:24:58.583
box truck full of food
we unload at the same day.

0:25:00.125,0:25:03.416
And we have to then dismantle

0:25:03.416,0:25:07.791
the pallets of food, create food boxes,
and then load the trunks.

0:25:07.791,0:25:11.750
So we have to have a huge team inside
each team outside.

0:25:12.125,0:25:15.291
We have had anywhere
from eight volunteers, which is not enough

0:25:15.916,0:25:18.916
to, to like 45,

0:25:18.958,0:25:24.000
for an event, because we also need

traffic control, because one time

0:25:24.333,0:25:28.416
we got the police call on us,
because we stopped the city bus,

0:25:28.708,0:25:32.250
and they cannot get around
because people were in line for the food.

0:25:32.833,0:25:33.791
So now we have.

0:25:33.791,0:25:36.750
Yeah. Two traffic engineer, engineer?

0:25:36.750,0:25:37.708
Yeah. I had no idea.

0:25:37.708,0:25:39.250
And then all of a sudden,
the police were there.

0:25:40.375,0:25:40.833
Oops.

0:25:40.833,0:25:43.250
Like we??we just trying to give out food,
I don't know.

0:25:43.250,0:25:45.291
Oh, hopefully they help you.

0:25:45.291,0:25:47.916
And they were very understanding.

0:25:47.916,0:25:49.500
But. Yeah.

0:25:49.500,0:25:51.041
So it's all hands on deck.

0:25:51.041,0:25:54.583
And it's just been really neat.

0:25:54.583,0:25:55.750
There's so much fun.

0:25:55.750,0:25:58.708
And they are really hard sometimes.

0:25:58.708,0:26:01.333
And I think those are the ones
where you bond the most.

0:26:01.333,0:26:01.750
Right?

0:26:01.750,0:26:04.833
You know, you just have to laugh
at the end of the night so you don't cry.

0:26:04.833,0:26:05.791
But you know.

0:26:05.791,0:26:10.041
Well, that's actually how you make the
closest connections and the relationships.

0:26:10.958,0:26:12.583
I've told this before, Mike McBride.

0:26:12.583,0:26:14.583
That's how I met him,
was volunteering in our community

0:26:14.583,0:26:17.666
and honestly working our butts off,

like I'm sure.

0:26:17.791,0:26:18.291

Yeah.

0:26:18.291,0:26:21.291

Long late nights, early early mornings.

0:26:21.791,0:26:22.458

Lots of sweat.

0:26:22.458,0:26:25.916

Lots of hard work. Yeah.

We laughed a ton.

0:26:26.166,0:26:29.875

I don't think we really, really cried,
but maybe we wanted to a few times

0:26:29.875,0:26:32.583

when things came
up. But that's the thing that

0:26:33.875,0:26:35.041

creates bonds, you know?

0:26:35.041,0:26:36.291

Yeah, absolutely.

0:26:36.291,0:26:39.291

And that's actually what My Hometown or,

0:26:39.708,0:26:42.625

My Hometown Ogden talks about is that

0:26:42.625,0:26:45.625

you create the closest relationships
when you work alongside each other.

0:26:46.041,0:26:48.125

Most especially when you serve alongside
each other.

0:26:48.125,0:26:49.750

Absolutely. Right.

0:26:49.750,0:26:53.083

So that's our, our your volunteers

0:26:53.083,0:26:56.083

if they're coming from the local,
the neighboring churches.

0:26:56.250,0:26:58.458

Presumably they're coming from the
in the neighborhood.

0:26:58.458,0:26:59.750

Probably. Right. Mostly.

0:26:59.750,0:27:01.166

Yeah. Yeah.

0:27:01.166,0:27:04.500

Also our afterschool program students
and families

0:27:04.833,0:27:07.666

are some of our most committed volunteers
as well.

0:27:07.666,0:27:12.000

That's been really neat to see them.

0:27:12.208,0:27:15.208

The kids love to go up
and down the truck,

0:27:15.875,0:27:18.208
on the platform
and they're really helpful.

0:27:18.208,0:27:21.208
And then they get to take a bag of
food home as well.

0:27:21.916,0:27:22.666
Yeah. And

0:27:23.750,0:27:25.166
yeah, some of my favorite friends

0:27:25.166,0:27:28.291
are from the free grocery events,
so they're just so fun.

0:27:28.416,0:27:29.083
Yeah.

0:27:29.083,0:27:30.250
So we have, you know, people

0:27:30.250,0:27:33.250
from the church,
people from after school program, people

0:27:33.250,0:27:36.875
from just social media, people
who used to get food no longer need to.

0:27:36.875,0:27:38.458
People who still get food.

0:27:38.458,0:27:40.208
It's been really amazing.

0:27:40.208,0:27:42.458
Wow. So you have a number of people
that maybe

0:27:42.458,0:27:44.041
just had a period of their lives
where they needed help,

0:27:44.041,0:27:46.041
but they're they've moved out of that.

0:27:46.041,0:27:48.875
So you feel like you've certainly
been able to help them through that.

0:27:48.875,0:27:49.458
Yeah.

0:27:49.458,0:27:53.541
We have you know,
we serve the gamut of people.

0:27:53.541,0:27:56.041
We have that come through our food lines.

0:27:56.041,0:27:59.166
We have college students
who are just struggling to make ends meet.

0:27:59.166,0:28:04.750
We have retired people,
we have, people who are,

0:28:04.833,0:28:08.250
you know, just down on their luck
for a moment, people who

0:28:08.791,0:28:11.791
I think will always be in the food line,
unfortunately.

0:28:12.458,0:28:15.000
It just really depends.

0:28:15.000,0:28:17.583
Do we talk about
where you get your food? No.

0:28:17.583,0:28:19.041
Can you do that?

0:28:19.041,0:28:19.291
Yeah.

0:28:19.291,0:28:22.541
We get our food from an organization
called Synergy in Action.

0:28:23.000,0:28:26.000
And this is really special to me
because I used to work with

0:28:26.583,0:28:27.875
the man who runs it, Alfred.

0:28:27.875,0:28:29.750
When I was in high school.

0:28:29.750,0:28:32.750
So that was when I kind of fell in love
with,

0:28:32.791,0:28:36.125
meeting practical need
and what that could look like.

0:28:36.541,0:28:39.375
I would go with him down to Salt
Lake City.

0:28:39.375,0:28:42.125
To inner city, like Rose Park area.

0:28:42.125,0:28:46.083
And we would serve food there to different
apartment complexes and things.

0:28:46.958,0:28:51.208
And so when we were starting
during Covid, he was our connection

0:28:51.208,0:28:56.125
to the Farmers to Families grant, and he's
still our food connection to this day.

0:28:56.250,0:29:01.125
He gets like, overstock,
like grocery rescue for man type food.

0:29:01.708,0:29:05.541
We never know how much food we're getting,
what quality?

0:29:06.041,0:29:09.125
What quantity. Sometimes we get

0:29:10.333,0:29:13.375
at, like, ten plus pallets
and they're full all the way to the top.

0:29:13.375,0:29:16.375
And, sometimes you'll know, like,

0:29:16.916,0:29:19.041
I don't know how
this is going to serve everybody.

0:29:19.041,0:29:23.000

But mostly seems to work out.

0:29:23.250,0:29:26.250

We don't typically have to turn people away.

0:29:27.750,0:29:29.875

And it's just really fun because.

0:29:29.875,0:29:33.208

Yeah, you never know what kind of food it is until you open the box.

0:29:33.250,0:29:33.625

Yeah.

0:29:33.625,0:29:36.750

So, you know, things that I'm like, you guys know as much as I do

0:29:37.000,0:29:40.000

what we're going to be working with today.

0:29:40.416,0:29:43.833

I think, yeah, that's what's so fun about the grocery events is just

0:29:43.833,0:29:47.250

you never know how many cars, how much food, how many volunteers.

0:29:48.125,0:29:51.791

Well, and it only seems to work out, but because it's made to work out,

0:29:51.791,0:29:55.166

because you, you and all the volunteers are there to make sure of it.

0:29:55.166,0:29:56.583

Right? Absolutely.

0:29:56.583,0:29:59.666

So what kind of what kinds of foods are coming in in the, in the shipments.

0:29:59.916,0:30:00.416

Yeah.

0:30:00.416,0:30:06.208

So oftentimes we get gorgeous produce which is so exciting.

0:30:07.916,0:30:09.208

The most exciting thing we

0:30:09.208,0:30:12.875

can get is meat that is a little bit more rare.

0:30:12.958,0:30:15.125

We usually have milk, which is amazing.

0:30:15.125,0:30:17.083

Families love to get milk.

0:30:17.083,0:30:20.583

And then beyond that, it is a such a question mark.

0:30:20.583,0:30:25.291

Sometimes we get, like, stuff from, like, really nice grocery stores.

0:30:25.291,0:30:30.916

Like Whole Foods, Trader Joe's like that, which is so cool.

0:30:30.916,0:30:33.500
Sometimes we get, like, restaurant
type stuff.

0:30:33.500,0:30:36.416
You have to break it down a little further
because it's

0:30:36.416,0:30:39.416
in, like, mass.

0:30:39.500,0:30:42.458
Yeah.
It's like too big for a family.

0:30:42.458,0:30:44.416
So, break it up and get it.

0:30:44.416,0:30:45.791
Split it between families.

0:30:45.791,0:30:49.166
But, yeah, you just really never know
whether it's canned

0:30:49.166,0:30:52.625
goods, box goods, fresh food combination.

0:30:53.166,0:30:56.333
Do you guys accept donations
from the public or anything? Yes.

0:30:56.375,0:30:59.583
Yeah.
We keep a very small food pantry on site.

0:30:59.625,0:31:03.625
And we use that to supplement,
if we're starting to run low at the

0:31:03.708,0:31:04.916
end of a free grocery event.

0:31:04.916,0:31:08.208
If we have someone drop in for food, if,

0:31:08.458,0:31:12.000
after school,
family needs food or something like that.

0:31:12.583,0:31:18.833
So when people donate to us, we load
that pantry and then we use it, as we go.

0:31:18.833,0:31:21.666
And we're always super grateful for that.

0:31:21.666,0:31:23.916
Also always super grateful

0:31:23.916,0:31:28.125
for diapers, period products,
baby formula.

0:31:28.125,0:31:30.166
That stuff goes like hotcakes.

0:31:30.166,0:31:33.208
And it's a little bit harder
to get it donated.

0:31:33.458,0:31:36.458
So with our annual gala,
we usually have people

0:31:37.083,0:31:39.916
bring a box of diapers
or something with them when they come.

0:31:39.916,0:31:45.541
Because families are always asking
and always struggling to get those.

0:31:45.875,0:31:46.291
Gotcha.

0:31:46.291,0:31:48.291
When you tell us about your gala. Yeah.

0:31:48.291,0:31:50.291
So it's coming up April 25th.

0:31:50.291,0:31:53.583
You know,
we still have tickets available.

0:31:53.583,0:31:55.833
Those are available on our website,
connectutah.org or you

0:31:56.916,0:31:58.875
can get a table.

0:31:58.875,0:32:02.125
Ogden City already has a table
so that???'s super awesome.

0:32:02.375,0:32:02.833
Where's the.

0:32:02.833,0:32:03.625
Where's that?

0:32:03.625,0:32:05.083
Yeah, it's at the monarch.

0:32:05.083,0:32:07.416
At the monarch? Okay. There you go.

0:32:07.416,0:32:10.541
And the time, six.

0:32:10.875,0:32:13.875
Okay, double check that on our website.

0:32:15.041,0:32:18.041
Yeah, I believe at six.

0:32:18.125,0:32:18.958
Yeah.

0:32:18.958,0:32:22.166
Is that where you,
that your main fundraiser for your.

0:32:22.166,0:32:23.750
For the year?

0:32:23.750,0:32:25.125
What other sources of funds do you have?

0:32:25.125,0:32:28.125
Grants?
Yes. And individual donations, etc..

0:32:28.666,0:32:30.583
And how much staff do you guys have?

0:32:30.583,0:32:33.416
I am our only full time
staff at the moment.

0:32:33.416,0:32:36.416
So that is our goal with our fundraiser

0:32:36.541,0:32:40.208

is to be able to have another full time staff.

0:32:40.375,0:32:45.500
Otherwise we have our amazing program staff who are dedicated to the

0:32:45.500,0:32:50.666
after school program exclusively, and we have three of those.

0:32:51.000,0:32:54.000
And then one who does like a little bit.

0:32:54.375,0:32:56.916
Okay. 3.2.

0:32:56.916,0:32:57.958
Okay.

0:32:57.958,0:33:01.791
Well, one of the things that we find most helpful in this city for us.

0:33:02.750,0:33:03.208
And for,

0:33:03.208,0:33:06.208
for others too, is making sure that we're

0:33:07.083,0:33:10.083
kind of capitalizing and building on each other's efforts.

0:33:10.250,0:33:13.125
And that connecting I think is going to be really helpful for you guys.

0:33:13.125,0:33:13.708
Absolutely.

0:33:13.708,0:33:17.625
I really feel like we look forward to the gala, but also look forward to

0:33:17.625,0:33:20.791
helping to connect you with others and others with you.

0:33:21.583,0:33:23.625
I think there's a real synergy and opportunity there.

0:33:23.625,0:33:24.333
Absolutely.

0:33:24.333,0:33:27.208
You guys are right in the heart of it right there.

0:33:27.208,0:33:29.875
For a lot of kids. Right.

0:33:29.875,0:33:30.958
So we really look forward to that.

0:33:30.958,0:33:32.333
Well it's.

0:33:32.333,0:33:36.208
Is there anything about your program or about your profit or about the north

0:33:36.208,0:33:39.208
end of town that you want to share of your own that I haven't asked you about?

0:33:42.625,0:33:43.916

Surely there's something.

0:33:43.916,0:33:45.666

I know trying to think.

I'll share something.

0:33:45.666,0:33:48.250

While you think of something, how's that?

Okay, I'll take it off. Your first.

0:33:50.875,0:33:52.916

So I full admission.

0:33:52.916,0:33:53.750

I've got two girls.

0:33:53.750,0:33:56.666

They go to Ogden High school,
or they're going to go, so they're.

0:33:56.666,0:34:00.666

And they're both at Mount Ogden Junior
High right now, and one's, ninth grader.

0:34:00.666,0:34:02.583

So that means she's playing sports
as a freshman at high school.

0:34:02.583,0:34:03.666

But yeah.

0:34:03.666,0:34:06.625

So we're clearly kind of
going into the Ogden High community.

0:34:06.625,0:34:10.166

But I've been spending more time
even, with Ben Lomond

0:34:10.166,0:34:13.250

and with the students
and the faculty and parents and staff.

0:34:14.291,0:34:17.250

And I think people are starting
to get a little like, woah what

0:34:17.250,0:34:19.250

what's your allegiance, you know. Yeah.

0:34:19.250,0:34:22.583

And so, I,

0:34:24.083,0:34:27.166

I just I'm obviously a tiger
because that's what my kids are going to,

0:34:27.208,0:34:30.125

but I'm a, I'm
a Scott. Like it's Ogden kids

0:34:31.250,0:34:33.000

when they played each
other I just went to the softball game.

0:34:33.000,0:34:35.750

We played each other
and I knew kids on both sides.

0:34:35.750,0:34:38.750

I actually had coached a ton of kids
on the Ben Lomond side.

0:34:39.458,0:34:41.625

I knew more kids in the Ben

0:34:41.625,0:34:44.625

Lomond than I did in the Ogden

even and it's so hard to,

0:34:45.500,0:34:46.958
to cheer on the other.

0:34:46.958,0:34:49.666
Other than my daughter's on one.
You know. Yeah.

0:34:49.666,0:34:52.666
So I think the thing I love about

0:34:52.833,0:34:56.333
where you're doing your work is that
I have fallen in love with the north side

0:34:56.333,0:34:59.333
of town, in the in the kids,
in the community and the people.

0:34:59.875,0:35:01.500
There's just such a camaraderie there.

0:35:01.500,0:35:04.375
That is unique in and of itself.

0:35:04.375,0:35:08.083
It's hard to explain but it's like a
microcosm of Ogden you know.

0:35:09.208,0:35:09.791
They, they

0:35:09.791,0:35:12.791
take the Ogden grit to another,
another level.

0:35:12.833,0:35:14.166
Like I'm always like

0:35:14.166,0:35:17.250
we always talk too about how we, in Ogden,
have a chip on our shoulders that people

0:35:18.125,0:35:22.000
people kind of second guess us
or they doubt us or they, they might,

0:35:22.250,0:35:26.166
they might criticize us or something
about something in our past.

0:35:26.166,0:35:28.500
And we we have a chip on their shoulder
about it.

0:35:28.500,0:35:31.250
And I feel like the north side
got a chip, right.

0:35:31.250,0:35:33.375
Yeah. And they're like, yeah, we got this.

0:35:33.375,0:35:35.125
We believe in ourselves you know.

0:35:35.125,0:35:38.666
So anyway
I love that about about the North End.

0:35:40.000,0:35:42.291
So that's my that's mine.

0:35:42.291,0:35:44.958
Yeah. Yeah.

0:35:44.958,0:35:46.458
Yeah. I don't.

0:35:46.458,0:35:51.333
This isn't about the North End
specifically but like growing up in Ogden

0:35:51.833,0:35:54.583
people would always say
like Ogden was the armpit of Utah

0:35:54.583,0:35:58.416
or was ghetto like stuff like that.

0:35:59.541,0:36:01.875
And it's just been neat.

0:36:01.875,0:36:04.875
Like,
I got married at Union Station last year

0:36:05.250,0:36:07.916
and just, like,

0:36:07.916,0:36:11.666
getting to have all these people
flying in and driving

0:36:11.666,0:36:15.458
and getting to really show them
Utah, like on our wedding website,

0:36:15.500,0:36:19.375
we had like a list of things to do
and like local businesses to try.

0:36:19.500,0:36:22.625
And people at the wedding were like,
oh my gosh.

0:36:22.875,0:36:25.750
Like, you know, I loved going to this.

0:36:25.750,0:36:28.666
I love going to that. Like,
this city is so special.

0:36:28.666,0:36:33.916
And, I don't like
I've always been proud of Ogden,

0:36:33.916,0:36:38.000
even when it was an armpit,
but it was never an armpit to me.

0:36:38.041,0:36:41.041
But, it's just been neat,

0:36:41.041,0:36:45.041
like we are fully
I feel like out of that reputation.

0:36:45.083,0:36:47.250
Like people love Ogden.

0:36:47.250,0:36:48.791
Feel like it's an art hub.

0:36:48.791,0:36:53.333
Like, are so, like, enamored with it.

0:36:53.416,0:36:58.500
And so I think it will be an

0:36:59.958,0:37:01.000
like it will be neat when

0:37:01.000,0:37:05.083
people get to, like, explore
the North End that way.

0:37:05.083,0:37:10.166

Like,
the North end is scrappy and wonderful and

0:37:11.625,0:37:13.916

has an Ogden identity,
but it doesn't quite

0:37:13.916,0:37:18.166

have that sheer ability yet
where people can come in and explore.

0:37:18.208,0:37:20.208

And I just love

0:37:20.208,0:37:22.458

the idea that that will soon come.

0:37:22.458,0:37:23.250

Yeah. You're right.

0:37:23.250,0:37:26.250

No, that's a really good point.

0:37:26.958,0:37:29.000

Part of what we want to make sure
that we're doing when we engage in

0:37:29.000,0:37:32.041

the North is also giving them
opportunities to engage downtown.

0:37:32.541,0:37:34.375

Make sure there's like arts opportunities.

0:37:34.375,0:37:37.708

There's in the arts district,
we have opportunities

0:37:37.708,0:37:42.500

not just to enjoy art or to do our part
to party, to be an artist

0:37:43.500,0:37:45.166

in the economy.

0:37:45.166,0:37:46.375

To make a living as an artist.

0:37:48.416,0:37:50.958

And those are things we want to make sure
that the North End is having access to.

0:37:50.958,0:37:52.625

But also you make,

0:37:52.625,0:37:55.958

you make a really good point about
we are not accessing the north.

0:37:56.541,0:37:56.875

Right.

0:37:56.875,0:37:59.541

If we don't live on the north end
and we don't go to school at Ben

0:37:59.541,0:38:02.541

Lomond or in the middle school
or the grade schools, right.

0:38:02.791,0:38:05.958

Because there's not like the big
metropolitan or the big employment hub

0:38:06.000,0:38:06.791

etc. up there.

0:38:06.791,0:38:09.750
And so those are some things
that we are working on here.

0:38:09.750,0:38:12.041
We'll share more of those details
when they're ready.

0:38:12.041,0:38:16.291
But to create more economic opportunity
and hub up on the north end.

0:38:16.708,0:38:19.708
And to create recreation
opportunities on the north end

0:38:20.208,0:38:25.416
to provide, you know, centers
for resources and, community connection.

0:38:25.458,0:38:30.000
Those are all, things
that are kind of in, in the idea stage

0:38:30.000,0:38:33.291
that we're working on formal proposals for
that we'll be announcing here.

0:38:33.500,0:38:34.958
But those are
the things that are going to connect us

0:38:34.958,0:38:37.958
to the north and the north, to us
and and make Ogden, Ogden.

0:38:38.666,0:38:40.166
That's right. Right.

0:38:40.166,0:38:43.166
That's what it means to to swing
resource north.

0:38:43.708,0:38:45.291
Right, right.

0:38:46.250,0:38:49.250
So I really appreciate you said that
I also I get to spend a lot of time too

0:38:49.250,0:38:53.416
with other mayors, across the whole state
and including the country

0:38:53.416,0:38:54.458
actually at times.

0:38:54.458,0:38:57.500
But one of the things that I hear a lot

0:38:58.583,0:39:01.416
and it's Ogden
specific, is related to what I feel

0:39:01.416,0:39:04.666
when I go to the North is that people feel
really welcomed in the city.

0:39:05.708,0:39:09.041
People that might have a an opinion of us
based on the past,

0:39:09.625,0:39:12.500
like you said, the, the terminal repeat.

0:39:12.500,0:39:14.375
You know

0:39:14.375,0:39:16.958
they, they come here
and they're like this isn't at all

0:39:16.958,0:39:18.708
what I would have thought it would be.

0:39:18.708,0:39:19.750
Right. Right.

0:39:19.750,0:39:23.000
And so for anybody that doesn't
live in Ogden and hasn't been to Ogden

0:39:23.416,0:39:25.416
come experience
Ogden before you judge Ogden.

0:39:27.416,0:39:29.458
It's just as real here.

0:39:29.458,0:39:33.500
It's like the real world, real life,
real people, authentic sincerity.

0:39:33.958,0:39:35.625
Right. Right.

0:39:35.625,0:39:37.833
So when.

0:39:37.833,0:39:39.958
Congratulations on the wedding. Thank you.

0:39:39.958,0:39:41.541
Thank you for choosing Union Station.

0:39:41.541,0:39:44.541
Yeah.

0:39:45.083,0:39:45.958
Every episode

0:39:45.958,0:39:49.208
that we do,
I like to choose a call to action.

0:39:49.208,0:39:52.208
I call it, like,
what are some of the things that

0:39:52.833,0:39:55.208
that we talked about today that that,

0:39:55.208,0:39:58.041
you know, encourage us to, to take action

0:39:58.041,0:40:00.375
so that we're not just talking about it,
we're actually working on it.

0:40:00.375,0:40:01.791
We're actually doing it.

0:40:01.791,0:40:05.208
And before we do a call to action, I first
want to draw more attention to the gala.

0:40:06.500,0:40:09.166
That could be a call to action

0:40:09.166,0:40:11.208
if this if this mission

0:40:11.208,0:40:14.958
resonates with you, if this is something
that you see you're seeing the need.

0:40:16.375,0:40:17.250
She's seeing the need.

0:40:17.250,0:40:18.208
We all see it.

0:40:18.208,0:40:22.458
If you want to get involved the gala is
one way to participate in the engagement.

0:40:23.208,0:40:26.083
Also, if you have goods that you want to
donate, that's another way.

0:40:26.083,0:40:28.958
What are some of the other ways
that we can. Yeah.

0:40:28.958,0:40:31.500
Come and experience a free grocery event.

0:40:31.500,0:40:34.500
Yeah, we always have those.

0:40:34.500,0:40:38.291
They're posted on our social media,
Utah neighborhood connection.

0:40:38.291,0:40:42.625
Those are a wonderful way
to get involved.

0:40:42.708,0:40:45.916
If you have an organization
that you feel like

0:40:46.666,0:40:50.000
would be a good collaborator for us,
you can always reach out to me.

0:40:51.625,0:40:52.500
Yeah.

0:40:52.500,0:40:53.333
So donate.

0:40:53.333,0:40:54.833
Volunteer. Collaborate.

0:40:54.833,0:40:57.333
Yeah,
right. Volunteer. Donate. Collaborate.

0:40:57.333,0:41:00.333
A little bit better there.

0:41:01.541,0:41:03.958
I'd also say for calls to action.

0:41:03.958,0:41:05.958
If you haven't been to Ogden,
haven't experienced Ogden.

0:41:05.958,0:41:08.083
But you've heard something about Ogden.

0:41:08.083,0:41:10.916
Come actually experience Ogden
before you judge us, right?

0:41:10.916,0:41:11.416
Yeah.

0:41:12.208,0:41:13.250
Come meet our people
and see how you feel when you leave here.

0:41:17.125,0:41:19.625

That's.

0:41:19.625,0:41:20.958

That's the frustration for me as a mayor.

0:41:20.958,0:41:22.708

Is that

0:41:22.708,0:41:25.250

people think

one thing of us and we're not.

0:41:25.250,0:41:27.625

But it's also a point of pride.

0:41:27.625,0:41:29.750

One of the other things about
when I get to engage with the mayors

0:41:29.750,0:41:32.666

is they actually remark on
how they're kind of jealous sometimes.

0:41:32.666,0:41:34.333

Some cities

0:41:34.333,0:41:36.916

about how much community pride we have.

0:41:36.916,0:41:39.916

And that we have a strong identity
of ourselves and

0:41:39.958,0:41:42.958

a strength within that they see and feel.

0:41:43.041,0:41:45.958

And so that's something
that we get to brag about.

0:41:45.958,0:41:46.708

Absolutely.

0:41:46.708,0:41:49.375

So thanks for being here
to brag about that. Yeah.

0:41:49.375,0:41:52.083

Thank you for bragging about your mission.

0:41:52.083,0:41:54.791

Thanks for serving and stepping up.

0:41:54.791,0:41:56.125

Thanks for embodying the Ogden way.

0:41:57.500,0:41:58.000

Thanks for just

0:41:58.000,0:42:01.250

being Ogden where we are, who we are
because of people like you.

0:42:01.916,0:42:02.500

Thank you.

0:42:02.500,0:42:03.833

No thank you.

0:42:03.833,0:42:06.458

And we look forward to more engagement.

0:42:06.458,0:42:07.500

Absolutely. Right.

0:42:07.500,0:42:10.291

Yeah. Okay.
So you got your call to action.

0:42:10.291,0:42:13.666
If you're looking to help, reach out
to the Utah Neighborhood Connection.

0:42:14.375,0:42:15.500
Donate goods.

0:42:15.500,0:42:18.458
If you have them, come to the gala,
if you can.

0:42:18.458,0:42:21.458
If you want to help load groceries,
that's one way.

0:42:21.458,0:42:26.958
If you want to get involved even more
and be a, help with after school or,

0:42:27.541,0:42:30.375
summer care, go to the training
and get prepared for that.

0:42:30.375,0:42:31.375
Right.

0:42:31.375,0:42:31.708
Okay.

0:42:31.708,0:42:34.791
So Meghan Kelly, formerly
Meghan Shaw congrats on the wedding.

0:42:34.875,0:42:37.625
Thank you. Thanks for being with us today.

0:42:37.625,0:42:39.541
Thank you everybody
for being here for the Ogden Way.