

0:00:09.875,0:00:12.333
Hi. I'm Ogden City Mayor Ben Nadolski

0:00:12.333,0:00:14.833
And thanks for joining us here
on the Ogden Way Podcast.

0:00:14.833,0:00:17.791
A place where we talk
about the stories of resilience,

0:00:17.791,0:00:20.791
the place
where grit, determination, unity.

0:00:21.791,0:00:23.541
That's the Ogden way.

0:00:23.541,0:00:26.125
The Ogden way is an ethos. It's a spirit.

0:00:26.125,0:00:27.958
It's a spirit that embodies us.

0:00:27.958,0:00:28.916
We live it.

0:00:28.916,0:00:30.500
We breathe it.

0:00:30.500,0:00:32.458
It's everything to us here in the city.

0:00:32.458,0:00:34.916
So we're here today
to talk to two individuals, two leaders

0:00:34.916,0:00:36.291
in this community.

0:00:36.291,0:00:38.750
Two names
that everybody knows the last name

0:00:38.750,0:00:41.916
And now they get to know the faces,
get to know some of the stories behind it.

0:00:42.458,0:00:45.833
Steve Peterson, John Watson, thanks for
joining us today on The Ogden Podcast.

0:00:45.833,0:00:47.375
It's a blessing to have you.

0:00:47.375,0:00:48.666
Our pleasure, our pleasure.

0:00:48.666,0:00:50.333
Thank you for the invitation.

0:00:50.333,0:00:53.916
So if you've been an item for a long time,
you know the name Watson.

0:00:54.416,0:00:55.708
Maybe you bought a car there.

0:00:55.708,0:00:57.500
You know the name Peterson.

0:00:57.500,0:00:58.083
Peterson, Inc.

0:00:58.083,0:01:00.166
is an enormous anchor in our city.

0:01:00.166,0:01:01.083

Let's start with you, Steve.

0:01:01.083,0:01:04.916

Tell us just a little bit about
who you are and what brings you to today.

0:01:04.958,0:01:05.916

Okay.

0:01:05.916,0:01:09.416

Grew up in a little town
called Far West, just outside of Ogden.

0:01:10.541,0:01:11.458

Started working in

0:01:11.458,0:01:15.250

Ogden when I was probably 15,
16 years old.

0:01:15.291,0:01:18.958

I worked at the Bamboo
Noodle and Safeway bagging groceries

0:01:18.958,0:01:24.708

and so I've grown up in Ogden
and, a little bit about our business.

0:01:24.750,0:01:27.625

I was a certified welder
when I was 14 years old.

0:01:27.625,0:01:29.833

I had a father that was very gifted,

0:01:29.833,0:01:32.875

and we built a business
around that, around welding.

0:01:33.333,0:01:34.791

We expanded into machining

0:01:34.791,0:01:38.000

and other things,
and today they have about 600 employees.

0:01:38.875,0:01:39.041

Here.

0:01:39.041,0:01:42.750

Ten years ago,
I sold my business to my employees.

0:01:42.791,0:01:45.500

So it's an employee owned business.

0:01:45.500,0:01:46.708

But we love Ogden.

0:01:46.708,0:01:50.125

And, it's all about, making it better.

0:01:50.875,0:01:52.041

It is about making it better.

0:01:52.041,0:01:55.833

And funny fact is, my first job
was at Safeway bagging groceries.

0:01:57.500,0:01:58.125

How about you, John?

0:01:59.125,0:01:59.750

Likewise.

0:01:59.750,0:02:02.541

I, come from a little community
called Far West.

0:02:02.541,0:02:05.541

Isn't that ironic
that we both grew up out there?

0:02:05.583,0:02:07.916

I've been in the automobile business

0:02:07.916,0:02:10.583

for the last 50 years.

0:02:10.583,0:02:11.666

And I've loved it.

0:02:11.666,0:02:13.750

It's, been great for my family.

0:02:13.750,0:02:18.083

I've, left Ogden
at times to buy different dealerships.

0:02:18.083,0:02:21.833

And I've had dealerships over in Wyoming
and throughout Utah.

0:02:22.500,0:02:25.500

And, there's been no place
quite like home.

0:02:26.000,0:02:28.791

Ogden has been my home always.

0:02:28.791,0:02:30.833

I've raised my family here.

0:02:30.833,0:02:35.583

As a young man, I worked around all of the
automobile dealers detailing their cars.

0:02:36.625,0:02:38.666

For a fella
that lived out in our community.

0:02:38.666,0:02:42.000

And it's been, it's
been a great way of life for me, and I.

0:02:42.000,0:02:43.333

I love our employees.

0:02:43.333,0:02:44.833

I love the city.

0:02:44.833,0:02:47.125

And it's done so many good things for me.

0:02:47.125,0:02:49.708

I look forward to hearing the stories
about you both growing up in far West,

0:02:49.708,0:02:51.958

and you guys fighting each other
as your kids.

0:02:51.958,0:02:54.958

But John was always bigger than me, so I.

0:02:55.166,0:02:56.791

I never picked a fight with him.

0:02:56.791,0:02:58.291

You just said home.

0:02:58.291,0:02:59.875

It's always about home, right?

0:02:59.875,0:03:01.458

Ogden is home for you.

0:03:01.458,0:03:03.416
You guys have. We've talked a lot.

0:03:04.958,0:03:06.416
Outside of the podcast setting

0:03:06.416,0:03:09.833
And you told me stories
about what brings you to home.

0:03:10.708,0:03:14.083
What made you feel like
Ogden was home and.

0:03:14.375,0:03:18.000
And then you share with me your wanting
to give back to be to home, right?

0:03:18.041,0:03:21.041
What is it about Ogden
that makes it feel like home for you guys?

0:03:21.791,0:03:26.833
Well look around, there's no place on
earth that's any more beautiful.

0:03:26.833,0:03:29.333
Than what this little community is in this valley.

0:03:29.333,0:03:31.083
We have mountains on top of us.

0:03:31.083,0:03:33.583
We can do anything in this community.

0:03:33.583,0:03:37.583
And we're 15, 30 minutes from some of
the most beautiful country in the world.

0:03:38.750,0:03:41.291
The people are good.

0:03:41.291,0:03:44.291
There's been great entrepreneurs
in this community.

0:03:44.541,0:03:47.666
It's been a place for great education.

0:03:48.416,0:03:51.583
There's government installations
that were always a help.

0:03:52.208,0:03:57.166
And so, Ogden, although sometimes people
used to think that it was the second city

0:03:57.166,0:04:01.750
in this, in this state, Ogden
truly has been one of the leaders.

0:04:02.041,0:04:04.375
And, I believe that's what's made it

0:04:04.375,0:04:07.625
home for me and such an enticing place
to raise my family.

0:04:07.916,0:04:11.625
Yeah, you touched on something
that is embodies the the Ogden way.

0:04:12.416,0:04:15.375
We've got kind of a chip on our shoulder
because people get

0:04:15.375,0:04:17.458

they second guesses, they doubt us, right?

0:04:17.458,0:04:19.166

And we never doubt ourselves.

0:04:19.166,0:04:20.458

And we have a chip on your shoulder.

0:04:20.458,0:04:24.125

And we are committed
to proving them wrong.

0:04:24.541,0:04:27.208

But more importantly,
we prove ourselves right.

0:04:27.208,0:04:29.250

Right.
That's a perfect way to say it is.

0:04:29.250,0:04:33.416

It is absolutely in our soul in this town.

0:04:33.666,0:04:35.708

We are not the second city of the state.

0:04:35.708,0:04:37.875

We are Ogden, right?

0:04:37.875,0:04:39.833

I love that.
I know I do too.

0:04:39.833,0:04:42.666

Steve, what is it about Ogden
that makes you feel like home?

0:04:42.666,0:04:45.666

Well, I think my roots were here.

0:04:46.000,0:04:49.000

My great great grandfather,
Robert Anderson.

0:04:49.416,0:04:52.541

Right after the transcontinental railway
came to Ogden,

0:04:53.000,0:04:56.583

he got off the train here in the 1870s,
and it was called

0:04:56.583,0:04:59.875

Junction City then.

0:04:59.875,0:05:02.375

And, so my roots go back to

0:05:02.375,0:05:06.666

the early pioneer days when they came here
and they built up businesses.

0:05:06.666,0:05:09.916

And, we've elected to stay here
all of our lives

0:05:09.916,0:05:13.250

And like John, I've had other ventures
where I've lived

0:05:13.250,0:05:15.083

in Arkansas and Tennessee.

0:05:15.083,0:05:16.250

I've lived up in Wyoming.

0:05:16.250,0:05:21.250

But I always come home

because it's a place where my family,

0:05:22.291,0:05:26.416

loves

my family eats and breathes and drinks.

0:05:26.416,0:05:27.666

Ogden.

0:05:27.666,0:05:30.958

Just this last year,

we had the opportunity to work on the choo

0:05:31.000,0:05:35.250

choo train at the Christmas Village

and have all my grandkids down there,

0:05:35.541,0:05:38.666

the giving machines

and just everything about it has just

0:05:39.416,0:05:42.958

focused us on

how do we make Ogden a better place

0:05:42.958,0:05:46.916

for all the citizens,

not just a select few, but everyone

0:05:48.083,0:05:50.958

You, it's like we had a script

and I promise

0:05:50.958,0:05:53.958

to the to the listeners of yours,

I promise we don't have a script.

0:05:54.083,0:05:57.083

You just said exactly the right thing

because

0:05:58.333,0:06:00.541

we are a community of opportunity, right?

0:06:00.541,0:06:02.416

And we are a city of service.

0:06:02.416,0:06:06.791

And that is the embodiment of of

our mission and our vision moving forward.

0:06:07.333,0:06:10.916

The vision that that I have heard from

the people, and I ran for this position

0:06:11.416,0:06:14.333

in the vision that I set for this,

the city for 90,000 people,

0:06:14.333,0:06:16.416

is that we want to be

a community of opportunity,

0:06:16.416,0:06:17.208

which means we need to create

0:06:17.208,0:06:20.958

an environment that people can see succeed

in, that they have access

0:06:20.958,0:06:23.958

to the fundamental things

they need to be successful in life,

0:06:24.083,0:06:27.083

and that we've got to have a workforce

that's rooted in service

0:06:27.291,0:06:29.083
and that this serves,

0:06:29.083,0:06:33.416
they have a mission that dovetails
and delivers for 90,000 residents

0:06:33.875,0:06:37.500
in their journey
to success in a community of opportunity.

0:06:38.125,0:06:41.375
So that's what when we talk about
the Ogden way, it embodies

0:06:41.958,0:06:47.166
our mission, our vision, our core values,
the fundamentals for human success.

0:06:47.791,0:06:50.791
And we talk about it through this
ethos of having way.

0:06:50.916,0:06:53.208
You two are both a story of the Ogden Way.

0:06:54.583,0:06:55.583
You grew up in Far West.

0:06:55.583,0:06:57.291
You did business. You grew up in Ogden.

0:06:57.291,0:07:00.791
You always come back to Ogden and Ogden's
more than just Ogden City proper.

0:07:01.375,0:07:03.833
It's a greater Ogden community, right?

0:07:03.833,0:07:06.750
And so these values have to expand
beyond our borders.

0:07:06.750,0:07:09.750
We can't afford to
just be a mayor of Ogden and nowhere else.

0:07:10.541,0:07:13.541
We're all collective, right?

0:07:13.666,0:07:15.916
As you guys have lived your lives,

0:07:15.916,0:07:17.791
you've returned back
and you're in a position

0:07:17.791,0:07:20.750
now where you're serving in the LDS
church mission.

0:07:20.750,0:07:22.583
Right. And the calling -

0:07:22.583,0:07:23.666
and as part of that calling,

0:07:23.666,0:07:27.083
This is where I really have gotten to know
the two of you is through service,

0:07:28.041,0:07:31.041
and it's through the my hometown
initiative.

0:07:31.166,0:07:33.416
Can you tell us a little
bit about that, John?

Sure.

0:07:35.333,0:07:36.958
And maybe I could just

0:07:36.958,0:07:40.791
give you a little highlight
of why we believe, like we believe.

0:07:42.833,0:07:46.708
My first job was down on 29th
and Washington at a place called

0:07:46.708,0:07:48.000
the Wash-mobile.

0:07:48.000,0:07:51.000
It was a detail shop
and had a service station there.

0:07:51.083,0:07:55.208
And my next door neighbor
and a, the father of a young man

0:07:55.208,0:07:58.208
that was my best friend
growing up as a kid.

0:07:59.750,0:08:01.791
He taught integrity.

0:08:01.791,0:08:04.333
He taught hard work and,

0:08:04.333,0:08:07.750
I hate to say it, I, I wanted to go
to the mountain and ski sometimes,

0:08:08.250,0:08:11.833
and there was no way that was going
to ever happen on Saturdays.

0:08:11.833,0:08:15.166
I worked, and on Sunday,
he made sure that I went to church.

0:08:16.291,0:08:19.291
I served an LDS mission in Mexico.

0:08:20.250,0:08:21.666
Came home and married my,

0:08:23.458,0:08:24.333
my girlfriend that

0:08:24.333,0:08:27.333
I'd had through high school.

0:08:27.416,0:08:30.291
And so Ogden became

0:08:30.291,0:08:33.291
really the nucleus
of everything we wanted to do.

0:08:33.541,0:08:37.333
I came home thinking that I wanted to be
a lawyer, and I went to Weber State

0:08:38.125,0:08:40.500
and found that

0:08:40.500,0:08:43.166
maybe that didn't move fast enough for me.

0:08:43.166,0:08:46.166
And so I jumped
into the automobile business.

0:08:46.458,0:08:48.958

But in the process,

0:08:48.958,0:08:51.666

we learned some commitment

0:08:51.666,0:08:54.666

and how to have progress in our lives

0:08:54.958,0:08:58.750

and how to meet people

and how to reach goals.

0:08:59.666,0:09:02.666

From this old guy

that gave me my first job.

0:09:02.666,0:09:07.333

And in doing so, it gave us, opportunity

to have some assignments

0:09:07.333,0:09:11.541

that The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter day Saints offered us.

0:09:12.041,0:09:16.166

Today, I'm privileged

to serve as the chair of my hometown

0:09:16.708,0:09:20.958

in Ogden, Utah,

and we have three separate communities

0:09:21.833,0:09:24.583

that, are in the south,

0:09:24.583,0:09:27.416

the west and the north of this city.

0:09:27.416,0:09:28.458

And we're having,

0:09:30.625,0:09:31.875

as many as

0:09:31.875,0:09:37.041

13 to 15,000 people

from what you just said are valley.

0:09:37.208,0:09:40.583

It's not just all Ogden,

but from our valley coming to help us

0:09:41.166,0:09:43.583

do work on inner city Ogden.

0:09:43.583,0:09:46.583

And we found

how much we love the people in inner city.

0:09:47.458,0:09:52.208

Some of them need help and we're here to

to try to do that very thing.

0:09:52.833,0:09:54.000

So you've, you've -

0:09:54.000,0:09:55.500

first of all, I'm

glad you didn't become a lawyer

0:09:55.500,0:09:58.583

because you ended up building the business

and anchor business and you ended up

0:09:58.583,0:10:02.875

building opportunities for other people

to have access to economic opportunity.

0:10:03.416,0:10:04.291
Right?

0:10:04.291,0:10:06.833
You built people by building a business,

0:10:06.833,0:10:09.958
and those people helped build
you into who you are.

0:10:10.750,0:10:13.750
That's I'm sure you would have done
amazing things as a lawyer.

0:10:13.833,0:10:14.875
Right.

0:10:14.875,0:10:17.750
But I'm really, really thankful
for the pathway you chose.

0:10:17.750,0:10:20.875
And I get up every morning and say, I'm

0:10:20.875,0:10:23.333
the luckiest man on earth
because I do what I love.

0:10:23.333,0:10:24.208
That's what I say.

0:10:24.208,0:10:26.333
So you can't be the luckiest on earth, I am.

0:10:26.333,0:10:28.291
We're a couple of lucky guys that, yeah.

0:10:28.291,0:10:30.500
I bet Steve
says the same thing too, right?

0:10:30.500,0:10:30.958
I've been blessed.

0:10:30.958,0:10:32.125
We've been blessed.

0:10:32.125,0:10:34.250
So the the my hometown initiative,

0:10:35.541,0:10:36.875
you know, we're talking about

0:10:36.875,0:10:41.208
a a program within, The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter day Saints.

0:10:41.708,0:10:44.666
I want to be really clear to
to the viewers and listeners,

0:10:44.666,0:10:46.416
this is not a program
that's only available.

0:10:46.416,0:10:48.958
And it does not only serve LDS members.

0:10:48.958,0:10:51.750
This is a program that includes everybody.

0:10:51.750,0:10:54.250
Everyone participates, everyone is served.

0:10:54.250,0:10:57.250
And no matter your faith or non faith

beliefs.

0:10:57.541,0:10:58.375
Right.

0:10:58.375,0:11:01.041
So you've kind of outlined,

0:11:01.041,0:11:02.333
how that program came to be.

0:11:02.333,0:11:05.250
Steve, can you tell us about what
the program does?

0:11:05.250,0:11:06.833
How does it serve Ogden.

0:11:06.833,0:11:09.458
Well, I think it goes really back
to the very origins.

0:11:09.458,0:11:12.458
Three and a half years ago,
I came in to Mark Johnson

0:11:12.791,0:11:16.333
and said, Mark,
here's the parameters for my hometown.

0:11:17.208,0:11:20.250
And as we explained what it was, I said,

0:11:20.250,0:11:23.250
and it can't be a church program.

0:11:23.291,0:11:26.458
You need to own the program
and we're going to assist you.

0:11:27.000,0:11:31.416
We're going to get the interfaith groups,
the service groups, all the other people

0:11:31.416,0:11:34.416
that love Ogden to come and participate

0:11:34.500,0:11:37.500
and really revitalize the inner city area

0:11:38.000,0:11:40.791
where people have opportunity
to learn languages.

0:11:40.791,0:11:42.000
We work on immigration.

0:11:42.000,0:11:45.500
Just had 19 get citizenship
going through our program.

0:11:46.041,0:11:49.333
A little girl named Zalufa
I met on a day of service

0:11:49.333,0:11:51.833
and she need a little help
just getting over the top.

0:11:51.833,0:11:54.000
She was a refugee from Africa.

0:11:54.000,0:11:58.875
She just got citizenship here two weeks ago, and for me, it's all about the people.

0:12:00.083,0:12:00.750
So my

0:12:00.750,0:12:04.875
hometown, what we do today,
we have days of service, and many people

0:12:04.875,0:12:07.875
that are watching this have probably come
to one of those days of service.

0:12:08.250,0:12:10.666
Our trademark,
after we've gone out and rebuilt

0:12:10.666,0:12:14.666
an Oregon, an area,
and it could be a church of another faith.

0:12:14.666,0:12:17.958
It could be botanical gardens,
it could be the river walk.

0:12:17.958,0:12:20.958
It could be just someone, a widow
that needs a handicap ramp.

0:12:21.500,0:12:26.500
We come together collectively
and do those projects and our trademark.

0:12:26.500,0:12:28.166
After we've done
that, we've worked together.

0:12:28.166,0:12:30.125
We feed them street tacos

0:12:30.125,0:12:33.666
And John, how many street tacos we fed
over the last three and a half years?

0:12:33.666,0:12:35.458
I can't count that high.

0:12:35.458,0:12:37.916
It's probably like 50,000 tacos.

0:12:37.916,0:12:38.541
You can count that high.

0:12:38.541,0:12:43.875
Yeah, but yeah, but we so we love that
piece of it, of this just revitalizing.

0:12:43.875,0:12:48.083
Probably one of my favorite stories is
we had four homes in a row

0:12:48.083,0:12:51.291
and, you know, it takes like six weeks
to plan one of these events.

0:12:52.000,0:12:55.541
And about a week before they came to us
and said, you don't need to come.

0:12:56.500,0:12:57.583
And we had outline.

0:12:57.583,0:13:01.500
We had people coming in from the west
and east and the north and the south.

0:13:01.500,0:13:02.666
to help

0:13:02.666,0:13:05.875
And I said, well, our Gene Stevens
actually was on the met with them.

0:13:05.875,0:13:08.875
And they said to
Gene, we've done it ourselves.

0:13:09.625,0:13:12.500
We came together,
we saw what you've been doing.

0:13:12.500,0:13:16.541
And the four families gathered
other families, and we did it ourselves.

0:13:16.708,0:13:18.958
That's powerful.

0:13:18.958,0:13:22.750
And so really, what my hometown.
It's like a spark that ignites a wildfire.

0:13:23.500,0:13:28.250
And we want to just keep feeding that fire
within because the people are good.

0:13:28.250,0:13:30.000
Sometimes they don't know,

0:13:30.000,0:13:33.041
they don't have the resources
or don't know how to get from A to B,

0:13:33.541,0:13:35.166
and we're here to to work.

0:13:35.166,0:13:36.791
It's not a handout.

0:13:36.791,0:13:39.041
It's a hand up. So you mentioned

0:13:40.125,0:13:41.000
Mark Johnson.

0:13:41.000,0:13:41.250
Yeah.

0:13:41.250,0:13:43.500
And I want to
I want to lift that up and call him out,

0:13:43.500,0:13:45.625
because I remember the time
that you guys came

0:13:45.625,0:13:48.250
in first presented to us at the City
Council work session.

0:13:48.250,0:13:51.666
And Mark Johnson's the former CAO
here at the city.

0:13:52.000,0:13:53.666
He served here a lot of years.

0:13:53.666,0:13:56.000
And he made a lot of difference
and impact,

0:13:56.000,0:13:58.166
and he'll have a lot of long legacy.

0:13:58.166,0:13:59.708
But I've, I've long thought

0:13:59.708,0:14:03.625
since taking this job that I think
this will be his biggest legacy.

0:14:04.250,0:14:06.916

And it's important
as we stand on the shoulders of leaders

0:14:06.916,0:14:10.166

before us, that we recognize the progress
that's been made as a community.

0:14:10.166,0:14:11.208

And you don't.

0:14:11.208,0:14:14.208

We don't halt or stop things
for political purpose or political gain.

0:14:14.666,0:14:18.041

We pick up where it left off and we carry
it further, and we carry it higher.

0:14:18.708,0:14:21.208

And I feel a tremendous sense
of responsibility

0:14:21.208,0:14:24.958

to turn that spark into a fire
and into a raging inferno

0:14:26.125,0:14:29.291

and for me, when we talk about the Ogden Way,
when we talk about the vision

0:14:29.291,0:14:32.333

and being a city of service in it
and a community of opportunity,

0:14:33.416,0:14:36.416

service is at the heart of everything.

0:14:36.541,0:14:39.833

I was raised to believe that, and
I've been raised by Ogden to believe it.

0:14:40.458,0:14:42.166

I know it in my core.

0:14:42.166,0:14:46.375

And in my experience in my first year
as mayor, starting my second,

0:14:47.000,0:14:50.041

there is no better example of service

0:14:50.041,0:14:53.291

and selfless service others than the
my Hometown program.

0:14:53.291,0:14:55.041

Not in this city anyway.

0:14:55.041,0:14:56.875

I'm sure there's other examples out there.

0:14:56.875,0:14:59.000

I challenge them to find it.

0:14:59.000,0:15:02.125

My hometown is
is the example of service to others.

0:15:03.041,0:15:05.250

Thank you, Mayor.

0:15:05.250,0:15:06.750

I'd like to add something

0:15:06.750,0:15:10.583

that Steve said there because it is the
foundation of this community.

0:15:11.583,0:15:14.708

We've
watched so many, people come together

0:15:15.500,0:15:18.291

and for the first time
know their neighbors

0:15:18.291,0:15:21.291

take pride in their home,

0:15:21.291,0:15:22.791

love each other.

0:15:22.791,0:15:25.500

And one of the things
we could not have done

0:15:25.500,0:15:28.375

is any of that
without the help of Ogden City.

0:15:28.375,0:15:28.916

And it -

0:15:28.916,0:15:31.041

I know we have the mayor on our side.

0:15:31.041,0:15:33.291

I know Mark Johnson was wonderful.

0:15:33.291,0:15:36.750

Mara Brown is right
in the same step as he was.

0:15:37.250,0:15:42.083

But so many of the employees of this city
have stepped up and done things

0:15:42.083,0:15:46.916

well beyond what they're asked to do
to make My Hometown what it is.

0:15:46.916,0:15:49.333

Mara Brown is an absolute angel.

0:15:49.333,0:15:52.166

She's, Mara Brown, current Ogden City CAO.

0:15:52.166,0:15:54.958

Working with me in
my administration is an angel,

0:15:54.958,0:15:56.541

and we've got a lot of angels
in our ranks.

0:15:56.541,0:16:01.750

The employees of Ogden City from code
enforcement to volunteer services

0:16:01.750,0:16:05.333

to our PD, to public works, you name it,

0:16:05.750,0:16:08.750

this city is involved in this program.

0:16:08.875,0:16:09.708

They've become

0:16:09.708,0:16:13.583

some of our dearest friends,
and we consider them our dearest friends.

0:16:14.000,0:16:18.000

They speak in the same terms
in these halls of this building about -

0:16:19.208,0:16:21.166
that is the

0:16:21.166,0:16:24.958
that's to me, that's what makes service
so powerful,

0:16:25.916,0:16:29.083
is the sense
that if you serve others selflessly,

0:16:29.625,0:16:33.750
you get this almost selfless return
back, right, called the servant cycle.

0:16:34.375,0:16:35.583
But the

0:16:35.583,0:16:38.541
I mean,
I sent this message over the holidays

0:16:38.541,0:16:41.583
that I thanked our staff
for all the service that they do

0:16:41.583,0:16:45.083
for people and that we're impacting
other people's lives.

0:16:45.083,0:16:47.833
But but it's
we pay really careful attention.

0:16:47.833,0:16:50.833
We are impacting our own as well
when we serve others.

0:16:50.833,0:16:51.958
Right?
Absolutely.

0:16:51.958,0:16:55.375
And I know, I know the two of you
that services in the center of your heart.

0:16:56.291,0:16:59.291
Steve Lee,
tell us what a service mean to you.

0:16:59.666,0:17:02.500
Services losing yourself in the work.

0:17:02.500,0:17:06.083
It's forgetting who you are
and what your wants are

0:17:06.625,0:17:09.416
and focus on the needs of others.

0:17:09.416,0:17:11.541
And service
can come in all shapes and form.

0:17:11.541,0:17:14.333
Sometimes it's a handshake, it's a smile.

0:17:14.333,0:17:19.166
But it's really that visualization
of helping someone come up, helping them.

0:17:19.166,0:17:22.916
And you can only you can only help someone
come up if you're on higher ground.

0:17:23.625,0:17:26.333
And that's what I've noticed as we've gone

0:17:26.333,0:17:30.000
inside Ogden City, inner city area

0:17:30.458,0:17:34.750
that used to be very vibrant and
and then it got ran down.

0:17:34.750,0:17:38.000
We want to return it to what it was
when it started.

0:17:38.583,0:17:40.416
And I think it starts with people.

0:17:40.416,0:17:45.000
You know, we use the excuse of fixing up
driveways and sidewalks and parks,

0:17:45.416,0:17:49.833
but it's really people that we're focused
on our community resource centers.

0:17:49.833,0:17:53.208
We have three in Ogden, and
we're just looking to open up a fourth.

0:17:53.666,0:17:54.750
That's what we do there.

0:17:54.750,0:17:57.791
That's where the people come in
to learn English or Spanish,

0:17:57.791,0:18:01.666
or learn how to sew or do
electrical work or plumbing work.

0:18:02.125,0:18:03.291
There's probably about 17-

0:18:03.291,0:18:07.583
18 courses we teach, and we'll teach
whatever that people what that they need.

0:18:08.000,0:18:11.791
- Immigration became a top priority
-Self-reliance.

0:18:11.791,0:18:13.625
Self-Reliance.

0:18:13.625,0:18:17.250
And and there's already hundreds
of great NGOs

0:18:17.250,0:18:20.458
in Ogden, and we don't want to duplicate
anything that they're doing.

0:18:20.458,0:18:23.208
We want to get people to them.

0:18:23.208,0:18:28.250
We want to be that connector that if if they need to get an education at the Ogden,

0:18:29.208,0:18:31.791
applied technology
college, they can get the training.

0:18:31.791,0:18:33.500
They need professional training.

0:18:33.500,0:18:37.041
But it's getting over that little hump
of getting them over

0:18:37.041,0:18:40.416

to where they can see,
I can do that.

0:18:40.416,0:18:43.333
Connector. That was the word.

0:18:43.333,0:18:45.458
Yeah, I use it all the time.

0:18:45.458,0:18:48.458
I'm begging people for help in the bit
to be a connector.

0:18:50.125,0:18:51.458
And we're gonna talk more about that.

0:18:51.458,0:18:55.208
But what does it mean to be a connector?

0:18:55.541,0:18:58.541
And how does this program help
to connect people?

0:19:00.791,0:19:01.916
Well,

0:19:01.916,0:19:05.291
I would take a stab at that,
because we've watched it,

0:19:05.750,0:19:08.375
for the last three and a half years

0:19:08.375,0:19:11.375
as we go to people's homes.

0:19:12.000,0:19:15.000
Mayor,
sometimes the door only opens two inches,

0:19:15.625,0:19:18.708
and once they see who we are and they,

0:19:19.833,0:19:22.166
start to understand what our desires are.

0:19:22.166,0:19:25.166
And this isn't about us. It's about them.

0:19:25.583,0:19:28.333
And, yes, we're going to change
some things, maybe in their property.

0:19:28.333,0:19:31.833
But what we really are going to do
is going to change their hearts,

0:19:33.125,0:19:35.458
and we connect with these people

0:19:35.458,0:19:38.458
and recognize that they

0:19:38.708,0:19:40.708
they have so much to offer.

0:19:40.708,0:19:45.291
And Steve mentioned that, you know, this
community has been a vibrant community.

0:19:45.666,0:19:49.208
It's had some beautiful blocks in it
and beautiful homes,

0:19:49.875,0:19:52.875
and some of those maybe are in, in,

0:19:53.333,0:19:54.833

need of repair.

0:19:54.833,0:19:57.833

But we connect with these people in a way

0:19:57.958,0:20:00.958

that all of a sudden

they've taken pride in this community.

0:20:01.333,0:20:05.416

But they say, just like we said as we sit

down here today, we love Ogden City.

0:20:06.166,0:20:08.250

And it's our home.

0:20:08.250,0:20:11.875

And that connection is starting

to reach across the street.

0:20:12.208,0:20:16.500

That connection is going around the block

and it's changing people's lives.

0:20:16.500,0:20:18.833

It really is, including our own.

0:20:18.833,0:20:20.666

As we do that work.

0:20:20.666,0:20:23.916

I have experience

when I participate in the program.

0:20:25.583,0:20:26.500

You might drive by a

0:20:26.500,0:20:29.500

home and you might you might judge.

0:20:29.500,0:20:31.583

You might think one thing or another

about somebody

0:20:31.583,0:20:34.500

based on the appearance of their home

and the outside.

0:20:34.500,0:20:36.625

What I've learned is that

0:20:36.625,0:20:39.416

the person on the inside of that home

0:20:39.416,0:20:43.416

almost always cares

just as much about Ogden as I do.

0:20:43.750,0:20:46.750

Yeah, and they're just

in a different place in their life.

0:20:47.000,0:20:50.000

And what we see on the outside and often,

0:20:50.625,0:20:53.375

unfortunately, judge them for

0:20:53.375,0:20:55.958

is just a reflection

of where they're at right now,

0:20:55.958,0:20:58.958

and that that thing is a weight on them

0:20:59.125,0:21:01.833

that they are struggling to to carry.

0:21:01.833,0:21:03.333

It's a burden that the struggle
they carry.

0:21:03.333,0:21:04.708

Right.

0:21:04.708,0:21:08.000

And it just sort of manifests in the,
in the appearance of a home.

0:21:08.000,0:21:08.541

And so

0:21:09.666,0:21:11.666

kind of all gets back to their spirit,
you know,

0:21:11.666,0:21:14.666

they might be struggling with their spirit
and with their energy and their

0:21:14.750,0:21:17.333

and their will to drive
and to lift, lift themselves.

0:21:17.333,0:21:20.166

But when you guys show up,

0:21:20.166,0:21:22.375

you change that, you change that energy.

0:21:22.375,0:21:25.208

And I've been, our staff,

0:21:25.208,0:21:28.500

we are transforming our code enforcement
staff from being a,

0:21:29.333,0:21:31.875

a, quote, policing group.

0:21:31.875,0:21:33.083

Instead of being a policing group.

0:21:33.083,0:21:36.083

They drive around town
and they look for need, right?

0:21:36.208,0:21:39.625

They find need
and they connect needs with resource.

0:21:40.375,0:21:42.750

And so the code enforcement
has become a really good avenue for

0:21:42.750,0:21:46.041

identifying people who need your help.

0:21:46.375,0:21:49.375

- Right?

- They've been fabulous.

0:21:49.666,0:21:50.791

They really have.

0:21:50.791,0:21:54.416

You know, one of the things that I thought
that came to me as you were talking

0:21:54.416,0:21:57.416

was there's a German
philosopher named Gerta,

0:21:57.500,0:22:01.208

and he said this, if you treat a man
as he is, he'll remain as he is.

0:22:01.708,0:22:04.125

But if he treat a man as he should be,
and not to be,

0:22:04.125,0:22:06.958

he will become what he should be
and ought to be.

0:22:06.958,0:22:10.583

And sometimes we have to see in them
that which they cannot see in themselves.

0:22:11.333,0:22:15.833

And probably the the biggest part of what
we do, John and I have done in our lives

0:22:16.250,0:22:19.291

is we take employees
or we take volunteer groups

0:22:19.291,0:22:22.458

that we're over
and we help paint a vision for them.

0:22:22.458,0:22:24.625

This is what you can have.

0:22:24.625,0:22:27.875

And, I'll just just share
a quick experience with John.

0:22:28.375,0:22:29.750

John. Was that for me?

0:22:30.750,0:22:32.000

He was 18.

0:22:32.000,0:22:33.000

Well, you were 21.

0:22:33.000,0:22:35.583

You're 22 years old.
He came home from a mission.

0:22:35.583,0:22:38.791

I was 17, and our group of kids

0:22:38.791,0:22:41.791

who were little struggling
and having our issues,

0:22:42.083,0:22:45.750

and he just came in to the rescue
and really saved my life.

0:22:46.208,0:22:47.750

And he did it through a car.

0:22:47.750,0:22:50.750

I had a 69 Cougar, and he helped me

0:22:51.208,0:22:54.166

paint it and made it into a show car.

0:22:54.166,0:22:58.583

And we have been best friends for 50
plus years.

0:22:59.625,0:23:01.291

I've done business together.

0:23:01.291,0:23:03.958

We've owned things
together, companies together.

0:23:03.958,0:23:06.666

And it all started

because he showed some interest

0:23:06.666,0:23:09.666
in a 17 year old boy that was struggling.

0:23:09.750,0:23:11.125
We all need a John Watson

0:23:11.125,0:23:12.208
- in our lives.
- We do.

0:23:12.208,0:23:14.250
In fact, when we talked to you
guys, had a coach in your life

0:23:14.250,0:23:15.583
that made an impact like that, right?

0:23:15.583,0:23:18.583
And I shared the story of Ron
Vick in my life.

0:23:18.583,0:23:21.375
We did. And may I say that,

0:23:22.666,0:23:24.875
he changed my life

0:23:24.875,0:23:27.416
because when we serve someone,

0:23:27.416,0:23:28.041
it affects us.

0:23:28.041,0:23:29.541
You've mentioned that already.

0:23:29.541,0:23:32.333
Selfless service to others
is the most selfish thing you can do.

0:23:32.333,0:23:33.333
Absolutely.

0:23:33.333,0:23:37.791
The coach in our life was an old farm
guy, and, he brought us together.

0:23:38.000,0:23:40.291
Ex-Green Beret.
Yep.

0:23:40.291,0:23:41.333
Tough as nails.

0:23:41.333,0:23:45.750
Not a big guy, but none of us wanted
to try to compete against him.

0:23:45.833,0:23:47.208
Sure, he taught us to box.

0:23:47.208,0:23:48.500
He taught us to climb a rope

0:23:48.500,0:23:52.000
in a gym without our feet
and just our hands and pure strength.

0:23:52.791,0:23:55.041
He taught us how to be gentleman.

0:23:55.041,0:23:56.833
He taught us etiquette.

0:23:56.833,0:23:58.708
He taught us integrity.

0:23:58.708,0:24:00.250

He taught us goodness.

0:24:00.250,0:24:03.250

He taught us honesty and,

0:24:03.500,0:24:07.291

And what Steve said is so important
that he gave us a vision.

0:24:08.458,0:24:08.833

There's a

0:24:08.833,0:24:12.166

saying in Proverbs,
it says people without vision perish.

0:24:12.750,0:24:16.000

He gave us a vision
of wanting to be somebody and something

0:24:16.916,0:24:19.083

and contribute to a community.

0:24:19.083,0:24:21.625

And that old coach,

0:24:21.625,0:24:24.625

I can't tell you
how many men he's affected

0:24:24.625,0:24:27.375

because of what he did for men.

0:24:27.375,0:24:29.500

And if we don't take part of that and

0:24:29.500,0:24:32.666

and recognize it and try to do the same
for others, shame on us.

0:24:33.125,0:24:35.500

Yeah, I think we all have an obligation.

0:24:35.500,0:24:38.291

His his name is Elton Griffin

0:24:38.291,0:24:41.333

and Elton was an amazing man and his son

0:24:41.333,0:24:45.500

now is an executive director
in My Hometown on the Ogden South Side.

0:24:45.500,0:24:46.458

Oh no kidding.

0:24:46.458,0:24:49.583

And so we all, we all owe, Elton a lot.

0:24:50.041,0:24:54.083

We have got to be America's
biggest small town, right?

0:24:54.750,0:24:57.041

There's a lot of connections.
We're like a big city.

0:24:57.041,0:24:58.500

Yeah, we're so small because there's.

0:24:58.500,0:25:00.458

We're so connected. Right.

0:25:00.458,0:25:02.333

And getting back to connector. And -

0:25:02.333,0:25:03.875
But you said vision to.

0:25:03.875,0:25:08.083
And I take a lot of responsibility
around vision for the city as the mayor.

0:25:09.166,0:25:12.500
But it's more than just me saying what
the vision is.

0:25:12.500,0:25:17.166
And then trying to push or cajole people
into following that vision.

0:25:17.833,0:25:20.541
My the vision that we've come up
with, this vision that we've heard

0:25:20.541,0:25:21.666
from the people

0:25:21.666,0:25:24.083
I heard through the campaign trail,
we hear it in our daily service,

0:25:24.083,0:25:26.375
and we've heard it
through formal mechanisms, through me,

0:25:26.375,0:25:29.458
through general plan, amendments
and so on.

0:25:29.791,0:25:35.000
We've gotten feedback and people want to
to have a vision that is about creating

0:25:35.000,0:25:38.458
an environment that supports opportunities
and success for people.

0:25:39.083,0:25:41.208
We want to be connected to each other.

0:25:41.208,0:25:42.416
Right?
Absolutely.

0:25:42.416,0:25:46.166
And and we all owe it to each other to
have a vision as a city and a community,

0:25:46.833,0:25:50.666
but to give one another vision through
our service with and for one another.

0:25:51.125,0:25:55.458
And and I really appreciate and want to
thank the two of you, but also the church,

0:25:56.750,0:25:58.791
for for being that

0:25:58.791,0:26:02.166
that model and that example for so many
and for it

0:26:02.708,0:26:06.958
as a, as a nonmember raised Catholic,
the church has wrapped

0:26:06.958,0:26:09.208
their arms around me
as well as a leader in our community.

0:26:09.208,0:26:14.416
And I've been amazed at how inclusive

the church has been for for me and for us.

0:26:15.041,0:26:18.500
I've seen more acts of service
and kindness out of the church than anyone

0:26:18.666,0:26:21.125
would ever know exists. Because you don't.

0:26:21.125,0:26:22.583
I'm not after accolades.

0:26:22.583,0:26:24.166
You're after impact, right?

0:26:24.166,0:26:27.291
Impacting lives,
and I just can't think of a better

0:26:27.291,0:26:30.750
example of service than the two of you
in the My Hometown program.

0:26:31.125,0:26:31.958
And the lessons of

0:26:31.958,0:26:35.416
his teaching are people in our city,
but also the employees of the city.

0:26:36.875,0:26:39.291
So I really appreciate you guys
recognizing that.

0:26:39.291,0:26:40.291
Thank you.
Thank you.

0:26:41.250,0:26:43.708
So when you guys do a

0:26:43.708,0:26:46.708
project like that,

0:26:46.958,0:26:49.166
tell us,

0:26:49.166,0:26:51.416
tell us what it takes to prepare for it

0:26:51.416,0:26:54.291
and, and some specifics
of what those projects

0:26:54.291,0:26:57.291
are like on the ground.

0:26:58.166,0:26:59.458
It's a big job,

0:26:59.458,0:27:02.458
and it takes a lot of hands to do it.

0:27:03.166,0:27:05.083
We would have,

0:27:05.083,0:27:08.083
been specific, about,

0:27:08.625,0:27:11.583
230 missionaries

0:27:11.583,0:27:14.583
that are called to be helpers
in this process

0:27:15.666,0:27:17.083
of those missionaries.

0:27:17.083,0:27:18.625

There's a few of them that are executive

0:27:18.625,0:27:21.833

directors and associate directors
that all come together.

0:27:22.166,0:27:25.166

And we start to make a plan on, location

0:27:25.166,0:27:28.500

and number of projects, what they need.

0:27:29.083,0:27:32.750

And before we ever start
one of these and Steve

0:27:32.750,0:27:35.750

said, six weeks, sometimes we're out

0:27:37.041,0:27:39.791

easily a couple of months to try to pull

0:27:39.791,0:27:42.958

everything together with equipment
and the things that we need to do.

0:27:44.416,0:27:45.625

And then we invite

0:27:45.625,0:27:50.083

volunteers because even that size of group
cannot get done

0:27:50.083,0:27:53.708

what has to be done on a given Saturday
when we start the day of service.

0:27:54.500,0:27:57.500

And so we bring,

0:27:58.375,0:28:00.625

200, 250

0:28:00.625,0:28:04.166

volunteers
from a different stakes around the valley,

0:28:04.458,0:28:08.958

and we'd have probably six stakes
participating now on a given Saturday.

0:28:09.833,0:28:12.333

And with that,

0:28:12.333,0:28:14.208

they go out, they register people,

0:28:14.208,0:28:18.000

they get waivers for homeowners
that we can do the work.

0:28:18.500,0:28:19.375

Safety training.

0:28:19.375,0:28:22.375

Safety training is done on on site.

0:28:23.125,0:28:27.750

We sign up and, know the people
who are there, and then we go to work.

0:28:28.083,0:28:32.083

And when you when you see that,
it is almost mind boggling

0:28:32.416,0:28:36.083

that families come together
and you have a family, a father,

0:28:36.083,0:28:38.916
a mother or five kids with them,

0:28:38.916,0:28:43.791
down to the age of 8 or 9 years
old, up to the age of 17,

0:28:43.791,0:28:45.000
18 years old.

0:28:45.000,0:28:48.833
And they all put their shoulder to the
wheel and they work and make a difference.

0:28:50.000,0:28:51.375
The night before that,

0:28:51.375,0:28:54.583
I can tell you inside my stomach
stumbling over,

0:28:54.833,0:28:58.416
I sort of have sleepless nights
the night before that day of service,

0:28:58.833,0:29:02.333
because you want it to come off
and you want the weather to be good.

0:29:02.708,0:29:05.125
And I can tell you in three
and a half years

0:29:05.125,0:29:07.583
I've looked at those mountains
and thought, it is threatening

0:29:07.583,0:29:10.583
today, we will not be able to pull this off,

0:29:10.583,0:29:13.583
and there's never been
a delay in this city

0:29:13.791,0:29:17.375
on doing a day of service because of
weather or things of that nature.

0:29:17.375,0:29:21.416
I can tell you that when, when or
if that ever comes, it will still happen.

0:29:21.625,0:29:22.500
We will be there, I promise you.

0:29:22.500,0:29:24.541
and Ogden people

0:29:24.541,0:29:25.791
will make it happen

0:29:25.791,0:29:28.166
because that's what we do,
that it is the Ogden Way.

0:29:28.166,0:29:31.875
And, you know is the Ogden Way - you talked about all that coordination,

0:29:32.083,0:29:33.625
Do you know what else is happening
while you're

0:29:33.625,0:29:36.708
getting all the materials and the supplies
and the and the planning of logistics

0:29:37.375,0:29:38.958
is much before that

0:29:38.958,0:29:41.750
And like I said, we have code
enforcement out and employees and we have,

0:29:43.041,0:29:44.750
volunteer coordinators

0:29:44.750,0:29:48.083
and right identifying the need instead of

0:29:48.708,0:29:51.291
putting a ticket on someone's door
and saying, mow your lawn

0:29:51.291,0:29:54.333
Well, what if it's an elderly woman
that doesn't have the ability

0:29:54.333,0:29:56.666
and is not surrounded by family
and loved ones?

0:29:56.666,0:29:58.166
That's where we step in.

0:29:58.166,0:30:00.625
Code enforcement
knows on the individual level

0:30:00.625,0:30:04.791
when there's a need connects
that need with the resource, right?

0:30:05.166,0:30:08.250
And then on the back end,
you guys are developing site plans.

0:30:08.625,0:30:11.958
Our staff are facilitating serving success

0:30:12.500,0:30:15.625
for others by reviewing,
approving the site plans, making sure

0:30:15.625,0:30:18.041
that they are going to beautify our city,
right?

0:30:18.583,0:30:23.083
Mayor, we have starting in April,

0:30:23.625,0:30:27.083
we have a meeting with this city
every other week.

0:30:28.375,0:30:30.416
And those executive directors come help.

0:30:30.416,0:30:35.458
Your employee force comes, and it is
a meeting that we really talked about.

0:30:35.458,0:30:38.875
All of those things
and the city comes together and works

0:30:38.875,0:30:42.583
as hard about getting this project done
as our people work.

0:30:43.125,0:30:46.583
And it's an effort
that is that is connected

0:30:47.333,0:30:50.000

in a way
that I've never seen it done before.

0:30:50.000,0:30:51.750

I don't think it can be done anywhere else

0:30:51.750,0:30:53.541

like it is here,
because there's only one Ogden.

0:30:53.541,0:30:55.916

And can I pay you that compliment?
Oh thank you.

0:30:55.916,0:31:00.166

You are the envy of all the other
My Hometowns in the Utah area.

0:31:00.375,0:31:03.291

They say, don't compare us with Ogden.

0:31:03.291,0:31:07.750

But you've done something very special
with us that has made this work well.

0:31:07.750,0:31:11.291

And getting back to the legacy of those
that come before us too, we all pick it up

0:31:11.291,0:31:14.291

and we move it forward
and build it up and lift it up right.

0:31:14.375,0:31:17.833

So the Ogden Way
it's it's it's so powerful

0:31:17.875,0:31:21.833

because you guys have shared
stories of investing in people.

0:31:21.833,0:31:23.375

You build community by building people.

0:31:23.375,0:31:26.375

That was my my mantra, my campaign
I meant it.

0:31:26.666,0:31:28.458

This is what I meant.

0:31:28.458,0:31:32.291

And and you
you found need you lift others.

0:31:33.041,0:31:37.333

They are doing the lifting for themselves
to the best ability that they can, right?

0:31:37.416,0:31:40.416

And we are surrounding them and wrapping
our arms around and helping them lift.

0:31:40.833,0:31:43.791

And in so doing,
we're lifting ourselves, right?

0:31:43.791,0:31:47.250

And it manifests itself outwardly.

0:31:47.250,0:31:50.250

We are lifting and rising as a city
and a community together.

0:31:50.625,0:31:55.541

This program is so powerful,
so many ways, right?

0:31:56.000,0:32:01.250

Remember the tagline for City of Service,
The Community of Opportunity, right?

0:32:01.500,0:32:02.750

It's all comes down to service.

0:32:02.750,0:32:04.541

It comes down to collaboration.

0:32:04.541,0:32:09.208

We as a city, as a employees,
are on a mission to always be

0:32:10.125,0:32:13.125

service oriented in facilitating success.

0:32:13.166,0:32:14.875

That's
what we're do for you and your program.

0:32:14.875,0:32:17.333

We're trying to replicate that everywhere,

0:32:17.333,0:32:20.458

always going to have missteps
because we're human.

0:32:21.083,0:32:23.750

But that's why it's
hard to build communities.

0:32:24.791,0:32:26.666

It's never easy, but that's what
we're doing.

0:32:26.666,0:32:29.250

We're doing it with you guys, right?

0:32:29.250,0:32:32.666

I want to get back to the notion
of connect connector and connecting.

0:32:33.708,0:32:36.708

I want to connect some dots
that leads to today and leads you to

0:32:37.833,0:32:39.083

Is in prior episodes,

0:32:39.083,0:32:40.791

we had guests

0:32:40.791,0:32:43.791

one of those guests was Delores
Banks Green.

0:32:43.791,0:32:47.083

She connected me with the Black Student
Union

0:32:47.416,0:32:50.458

at Ben Lomond High School,
now named the Urban Student Alliance.

0:32:51.708,0:32:53.916

They connected me with the reality
that their students

0:32:53.916,0:32:56.916

are feeling a sense of hopelessness.

0:32:57.250,0:33:00.500

Because they shared that message with me,
I was able to share it with you.

0:33:01.208,0:33:04.208

Connectors in our city, connectors to resources.

0:33:04.541,0:33:07.500
Let's talk a little bit about what we've worked on together

0:33:07.500,0:33:08.583
since the time that I shared

0:33:08.583,0:33:11.583
that message of hopelessness with them on the north side of town

0:33:11.875,0:33:14.833
and and the opportunities you guys have been able to bring to the table

0:33:14.833,0:33:17.416
and what we're going to build moving forward. Okay.

0:33:17.416,0:33:19.333
Does anybody want to jump on that?

0:33:19.333,0:33:23.333
You know, our vision statement for My Hometown

0:33:23.583,0:33:26.583
is listen, love and lift.

0:33:26.875,0:33:31.375
And we want you to know and we have met, we've been listening what these needs are.

0:33:31.375,0:33:34.916
And I think in one area we've come up short.

0:33:35.375,0:33:38.375
We focused on days of pride, their days of service,

0:33:38.375,0:33:41.875
our community resource centers that are more on the adult side.

0:33:42.541,0:33:47.083
And now I think we're going to expand our vision to really focus on the youth.

0:33:47.500,0:33:52.875
And we've named it youth, impact, or youth, what they call it

0:33:54.083,0:33:55.125
anyway, youth.

0:33:55.125,0:33:56.541
It'll impact the youth.

0:33:56.541,0:33:58.125
We got like Youth Impact here.

0:33:58.125,0:34:01.375
We've got Boys and Girls Club and they can only do so much.

0:34:01.375,0:34:03.541
They're limited on how many students.

0:34:03.541,0:34:08.375
What our focus wants to be is how can we take those kids at Ben Lomond High School,

0:34:08.666,0:34:13.375
they're feeling hopelessness

and do what John did for me or what

0:34:13.375,0:34:15.708
Alton Griffin did for John.

0:34:15.708,0:34:17.875
And we need a location.

0:34:17.875,0:34:22.208
And we found a location
and we're right in the we have an LOI

0:34:22.250,0:34:24.833
We're real close to getting this facility

0:34:24.833,0:34:28.041
and it will be a true partnership,
just like My Hometown is with Ogden.

0:34:28.333,0:34:31.333
It'll be a partnership
between Ogden and My Hometown

0:34:31.583,0:34:34.583
How we bring those kids
and help with their homework,

0:34:34.791,0:34:38.666
how we can help them
see the vision of what they can become.

0:34:39.750,0:34:42.750
I kind of compare
it to how my dad taught me how to weld.

0:34:43.000,0:34:46.541
He taught me those very difficult
type of welding when I was 12 years

0:34:46.541,0:34:49.541
old, and it's called Heliarc Welding or Tig welding.

0:34:50.916,0:34:53.583
And he didn't just give me a book and say,
okay, here's the book.

0:34:53.583,0:34:56.583
You read it,
you know, he put his arms around me.

0:34:56.916,0:34:59.916
He put his hand in my right
hand on my left hand.

0:35:01.041,0:35:01.791
We struck an arc.

0:35:01.791,0:35:04.458
We dropped the hood, and he said,
do you see it?

0:35:04.458,0:35:06.875
And I said, what? He said, the puddle.

0:35:06.875,0:35:08.250
I said,
I know what you're talking about, dad.

0:35:08.250,0:35:09.666
Well, this goes on for 3 or 4 times.

0:35:09.666,0:35:12.625
And finally one day I saw it, a shiny
little puddle,

0:35:12.625,0:35:16.041
and I started adding the filler
material, and I was welding.

0:35:17.125,0:35:17.958

And that's

0:35:17.958,0:35:21.750

almost 60 years ago,
and I'm hooked on it today,

0:35:21.750,0:35:25.625

because he took the time
to put his arms around me and show me.

0:35:25.791,0:35:29.333

Not just tell me, but show me how
I could have a better life.

0:35:30.083,0:35:31.916

And there's an interesting thing
about welding.

0:35:31.916,0:35:34.916

When you take two pieces of metal
and you put them together

0:35:34.958,0:35:38.708

and if done properly, that weld
is stronger than the metal itself.

0:35:39.541,0:35:43.541

And that's how we can do this with these
youth, these kids at Ben High School

0:35:43.541,0:35:46.916

that are struggling with hopelessness,
bring them into a facility.

0:35:46.916,0:35:48.416

We might even feed them.

0:35:48.416,0:35:49.916

We might help with their homework.

0:35:49.916,0:35:53.666

And then we'll give them a vision
of what they can become

0:35:54.541,0:35:57.708

and let them catch that vision
and take control of their own lives.

0:35:57.708,0:36:00.708

And then we step back and assist them.

0:36:00.875,0:36:05.541

But it's giving them that vision
of what they can do.

0:36:05.833,0:36:09.208

Vision. Connector. Service.

0:36:09.958,0:36:11.875

Collaboration. Lift,

0:36:11.875,0:36:13.291

love, listen.

0:36:13.291,0:36:16.291

These are all the things
that we always do.

0:36:16.333,0:36:19.250

They're all the things that embody
the ethos and the spirit of the Ogden way.

0:36:20.250,0:36:21.000

You know,

0:36:21.000,0:36:23.708

we are building this building

0:36:23.708,0:36:26.625
and this opportunity right now, right?

0:36:26.625,0:36:28.333
Great things are going to come.

0:36:28.333,0:36:29.750
I know it.

0:36:29.750,0:36:31.166
We're going to have a great name for it.

0:36:31.166,0:36:33.000
We're going to have a great,

0:36:33.000,0:36:35.541
you know, set of services within it.

0:36:35.541,0:36:38.541
But the important thing to remember
is that

0:36:39.208,0:36:41.458
as the mayor, I'm a connector,

0:36:41.458,0:36:41.916
right.

0:36:41.916,0:36:44.458
As John Watson, you're a connector
as Steve Peterson, you're connector

0:36:44.458,0:36:48.000
We're all connectors
and we can't afford to not be.

0:36:48.250,0:36:52.000
And as connectors, we've got to connect
with one another and lift each other

0:36:52.000,0:36:55.541
and help them find
what they're looking for to succeed.

0:36:55.541,0:36:58.541
The opportunities are abundant
in this city.

0:36:59.541,0:37:00.291
They're out there.

0:37:00.291,0:37:04.333
There are impediments for people
where at every level,

0:37:04.333,0:37:09.500
from the the highest peak of success
to the lowest lows of human,

0:37:11.250,0:37:14.250
survival and everything in between.

0:37:14.625,0:37:18.958
And we've got to be an army
of people, of servants that reaches

0:37:19.416,0:37:22.750
up, down and all around in order
to find those people that need that.

0:37:23.625,0:37:26.000
And they've got to have
that sense of urgency

0:37:26.000,0:37:29.000
for themselves

to do the work and invest in themselves.

0:37:29.125,0:37:31.916
It helps so much to return
that spirit to them when they know

0:37:31.916,0:37:33.541
that they're not alone.

0:37:33.541,0:37:36.541
So I want to thank you guys
for being those kinds of men.

0:37:36.583,0:37:39.583
I think the church in that
kind of a church and that kind of faith,

0:37:40.125,0:37:43.291
and for being a faith that invited
all the other faiths to the table.

0:37:43.791,0:37:46.916
Remember, this is not just about
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day

0:37:46.916,0:37:48.000
Saints.

0:37:48.000,0:37:51.750
You mentioned to the Interfaith Council,
we have an Interfaith council of

0:37:52.041,0:37:56.208
so many rich and diverse
spiritual practices in the city, right?

0:37:56.666,0:37:59.541
We all come together to lift one another.

0:37:59.541,0:38:01.541
This is the Ogden Way.

0:38:01.541,0:38:03.166
This is a beautiful town.

0:38:04.458,0:38:07.500
And as
we wrap up, I want to make sure that we

0:38:07.833,0:38:11.833
that we highlight the fact
one, you're wearing the Ogden Way gear

0:38:12.750,0:38:13.833
Thank you for repping the brand.

0:38:13.833,0:38:15.833
You guys look amazing.

0:38:15.833,0:38:17.625
Thank you for being here.

0:38:17.625,0:38:20.541
Thank you for being connectors,
being in service, for being selfless,

0:38:20.541,0:38:23.541
for having such loving and kind
and caring hearts.

0:38:24.958,0:38:26.791
To anybody that's listening,

0:38:26.791,0:38:30.583
please go out and like, subscribe, share,
visit the links that are on the page.

0:38:31.083,0:38:32.833

Learn more about the Ogden Way.

0:38:32.833,0:38:35.500

Learn more about the
My Hometown initiative.

0:38:35.500,0:38:37.000

Learn more about what you can do

0:38:37.000,0:38:40.000

to get involved and get connected
and be a connector.

0:38:40.375,0:38:41.916

That's how we build a community.

0:38:41.916,0:38:43.583

We we can build buildings

0:38:43.583,0:38:45.541

and build infrastructure,
but that's just building a city.

0:38:46.791,0:38:47.958

We are here to build community.

0:38:47.958,0:38:50.166

You build community by building people

0:38:50.166,0:38:52.958

that use that infrastructure
and populate those buildings.

0:38:52.958,0:38:55.958

That is the Ogden Way.

0:38:56.125,0:38:59.250

Mayor, we owe you a great deal of
thanks for this.

0:38:59.250,0:39:01.916

Thank you for the opportunity
of letting us be here.

0:39:01.916,0:39:04.625

And thanks for the support
that you give us.

0:39:04.625,0:39:07.791

I love what you've said this evening
and this is fantastic.

0:39:08.041,0:39:10.708

Well, thank you
and thank you, Steve, for being here.

0:39:10.708,0:39:14.125

Let's finish for our,
call to action for the day.

0:39:14.541,0:39:17.541

It's always to go out
and to get out and be a connector.

0:39:18.416,0:39:21.208

The connection was Delores

0:39:21.208,0:39:22.916

Banks Green,

0:39:22.916,0:39:25.375

Black Student
Union, sense of hopelessness.

0:39:25.375,0:39:28.458

My Hometown initiative
through John Watson and Steve Peterson,

0:39:29.541,0:39:31.916
a community facility that's provided

0:39:31.916,0:39:34.916
and, supported by the church

0:39:35.291,0:39:38.375
that we're going to fill with kids
from every faith in every nation,

0:39:38.666,0:39:41.416
from every neighborhood of the city,
with a focus on the North.

0:39:41.416,0:39:43.333
Because that's what we heard. We listened

0:39:44.458,0:39:45.291
Right?

0:39:45.291,0:39:48.333
We loved them, but
we are going to do the work to lift them.

0:39:48.625,0:39:50.750
That is the Ogden Way.

0:39:50.750,0:39:53.000
Thank you so much, gentlemen.
Thank you.
Thank you.

0:39:53.000,0:39:55.791
Appreciate you coming.
We're in it for the long haul.

0:39:55.791,0:39:57.291
We have to be.

0:39:57.291,0:39:58.875
We're never done.

0:39:58.875,0:40:00.416
Building community never ends.

0:40:00.416,0:40:03.958
So until next time, thank you for
joining us here on The Ogden Way Podcast.

0:40:04.375,0:40:07.250
Get out there, get involved, be a connector.

0:40:07.250,0:40:09.458
Lift yourself, lift others.

0:40:09.458,0:40:11.041
Thank you so much, Ogden.
Until next time.