

# Mayor's Message: November 2008



**Mayor Russ Wall**

Thanksgiving is my wife's favorite holiday. She loves the opportunity to spend time with our children, grandchildren, parents and other family members. It is a time to enjoy good food and reflect on those things of which we are most thankful.

Could you imagine not having a family to gather together with at Thanksgiving? How about a child who has no family to sit down with at Thanksgiving...Christmas...Birthday?

About 2600 Utah children are right now separated from their families in Utah because their families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being.

In our own city of Taylorsville, there are 253 children in need of foster care and only 113 licensed foster care families. There is a particular need for families who are able and willing to care for children over age eight. There is also an urgent need for Latino/Hispanic and Spanish-speaking families.

Paul Jensen, a resident of Taylorsville, was recently honored as one of five Foster/Adoptive Dads of the Year by the Utah Foster Care Foundation. He and his wife, Nancy, have adopted two sibling groups from foster care after their biological families could no longer care for them. "Brothers and sisters should be together" Paul says.

I have always been proud of our city for the spirit of volunteerism and compassion for others through charitable acts and giving. Would you please consider taking in a child who needs a family?

Foster care parents can be married or single. They can own or rent their homes. It only takes 32 hours of free training and the ability to pass a criminal background check to become a foster parent in Utah.

"Thank You" to the Jensens and others who are already participating in this worthy cause. God bless you for your kind work.

For information on foster parenting, please contact Kirsten Fuller at 747-0521, toll free at 877-505-KIDS (5437), e-mail her at [kirsten.fuller@utahfostercare.org](mailto:kirsten.fuller@utahfostercare.org), OR better yet, attend the Taylorsville/Kearns "Ask a Foster Parent" Night on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 PM, at the Utah Foster Care Foundation offices, 5296 Commerce Drive (320 West), Suite 400.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Wall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.