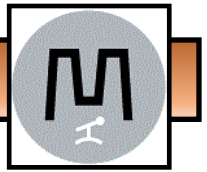


## City Council Message



June 2020



**Kat Martinez**

Fred Rogers is known for saying “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” The last 3 months have been a frightening time for all of us. Jobs have been lost, children kept home from school and there is much uncertainty. But when I look for the helpers here in our Murray community, I do not have to look far. Murray’s generous spirit is shining through.

Murray resident Lynda Smart started collecting food for families in need. She then teamed up with Murray community leaders including Jim and Jennifer Brass, Sheri VanBibber, Kathy and Mike

Romero, Steve McGinty, Marie Goettsche, and Eliza Romero to form The Murray Children’s Pantry. You can bring nonperishable food donations Tuesday mornings and the 3rd Saturday of every month, from 10am to Noon, to Creekside High School.

The Vietnamese Community of Utah sewed over 7,000 masks which they donated to first responders all over Salt Lake County.

Jaimie Dunn at the Boys & Girls Club organized an inhouse program where they provide 6000 meals per week to the children they oversee.

Veronica Bustillos, known as Ms. V to her students, has been distributing food to students in need from both Murray and Cottonwood High School. Ms. V was recently able to establish a food pantry, with the help of Councilmember Dominguez, where she continues to support Murray families. Those in need can pick up food Wednesdays and Fridays 5:30 PM - 7PM at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Murray.

Longtime Murray community partner, Neighborworks continues to offer down payment assistance and home improvement loans to make housing more accessible in neighborhoods you love. If you are looking into purchasing a home in Murray, reach out to Neighborworks to see how they can help. They also help residents to be the change they want to see in their community through programs like Paint Your Heart Out and Rake Your Heart Out.

My family has found a way to give back through a mutual aid group. Through the group COVID19 - Mutual Aid SLC, the Martinez family delivers groceries to a few Murray families in need every week. This group has completed nearly 2,000 deliveries over the past 3 months and its completely powered by volunteers.

Now is not just a time to look for helpers, it is time to be the helpers. There are so many ways to support your neighbors and community members. Whether you can sew masks, donate money to mutual aid groups or drop off a box of nonperishable food at one of our community food pantries, be the good you wish to see in the world. Taking care of each other is the Murray way, it always has been. Our sense of community here in Murray is stronger than ever, and I’m proud to do the work to support our neighbors with you at my side (even if we are 6 feet apart).

Kat Martinez

City Council, District 1