

A Man of Many Hats

Mayor Dirk Burton prides himself in many things; his family, his job, and his ability to lift people's spirits.

"I found that I feel better when people around me feel better," said Mayor Burton.

This philosophy started when the Mayor spent some time in the hospital when he was 17-years-old. A trench incident led to several surgeries on his leg and weeks in a wheelchair.

"I was able to start going down the hall of the hospital, visiting with some of the patients," said Mayor Burton. "That changed my life. I decided then and there that I wanted to start enjoying life. I wanted to start making people laugh."



Years passed and Mayor Burton got married. One day his wife came home with a hat, a fedora, at the time neither of them could guess what that one hat would turn into today. Mayor Burton now has more than 400 hats lining the walls of his basement.

"I think a hat is a great healer," Said Mayor Burton. "Laughter is the best medicine and some of my hats bring out a lot of laughter."

Mayor Burton turned his collection of hats into a way to let people know he is approachable.

"Complete strangers would talk to me when they see me wearing these hats," said Mayor Burton. "Here I am hundreds of hats later, using them to brighten people's day, letting them know it's okay to stop for a moment and laugh."

Now as the Mayor of West Jordan, Mayor Burton wears many hats, both literally and figuratively. The idea of starting his hat collection and becoming Mayor have nearly the same endpoint in mind.

"My goal is to make life better for other people, to help the people of West Jordan to have a better day," said Mayor Burton. "It's not about me, really, it's about our community."

In 2013, Mayor Burton was featured on KUTV showing off his hat collection. You can watch the story here: <https://kutv.com/archive/mayoral-candidate-shows-off-massive-hat-collection>