

Former mayor, Jeff Acerson and his wife, Karen are serving as Lindon Days' Grand Marshals this year.

Jeff is from Green River, Utah and Karen is from Moab, Utah, so the small-town feel of Lindon was especially attractive when deciding where to raise their family. They built and moved into their home in Lindon in 1992 and have loved living next to the most wonderful people on earth ever since.

Always looking for fun activities for their children, they attended their first Lindon Days celebration 30 years ago. When Jeff asked Don Peterson (Director of Public Works) if he could be of some help with the mutton-bustin' activity, Don took one look at Jeff's sandals, and said, "Not in those you can't! Go home and put some boots on!" That was their first clue that Lindon was "a little bit country." After volunteering to help with Lindon Days for a few years, the Acersons were asked to head up the celebration and loved every minute of the fun and unifying city celebration.



Jeff coached his children's baseball and basketball teams in the Pleasant Grove and Lindon leagues for years, and their daughters all participated in Little Miss Lindon, one of whom (Kimberly) became Little Miss Lindon in 1996.

After hearing from his church leaders that members should be more involved in their community, Jeff decided to run for a city council seat. After serving there for a couple of terms, Jeff was appointed as mayor after Mayor Ellertson was elected as a Utah County commissioner. After a few years into his service as mayor, Jeff received a mission call to serve as the mission president of the Italy Rome Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 2007-2010.

Upon their return, Jeff was elected to the city council and then again as mayor for two more terms. During his years of public service, he helped move forward the construction of the city pool, the Lindon Community Center, the Public Safety building, the development of 700 North, the Murdock Trail, and continued to organize the Thanksgiving Dinner started by Mayor Jim Dain.

Jeff and Karen both attended Brigham Young University, and then worked for WordPerfect Corporation for many years until the company was purchased by Novell. At WordPerfect Corporation, Jeff was Director of Corporate Communications. He continued with Novell for another year before committing his time to the community and various callings for his church. He chaired the Governor's Y2K committee, worked at the Soldier Hollow venue during the Olympics, taught Principles of Leadership for Utah Valley University for over ten years, and served on the Utah County Board of Health for several years. In 2020, during his final year as

mayor, Jeff was appointed by the governor to serve a four-year term as a trustee for the Utah Transit Authority (UTA).

Karen worked as the director of customer Support for WordPerfect Corporation where she helped rewrite their user manual, taught classes, and instructed in training videos. Her book WordPerfect: The Complete Reference was a New York Times bestseller. She wrote a total of five books for Osborne/McGraw-Hill and Ziff-Davis Press. In addition to her church service, Karen helped to organize the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival, now in its 33rd year, and served as its executive director and president for much of that time. She has also been a 4-H leader for young women, served as PTA president at American Heritage School and Pleasant Grove High School, involved the community in several projects as part of Oprah's Pay it Forward Challenge in 2006, is a recipient of the Senator Arthur V. Watkins award for Outstanding Community Service, served on the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees for 11 years, the Mountainland Technical College Board of Trustees for eight years, and currently serves as a board member at Brades' Place, a non-profit organization which helps children with life-long health challenges. This past spring, Karen received an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters from Utah Valley University.

Jeff and Karen are grateful for their time here in Lindon and for the many wonderful programs and people who have helped them raise their six children (Mark, Kimberly, Lisa, Scott, Marianne, and Stephanie). They currently have eight grandchildren with at least one more on the way. They also have several unofficially-adopted children and grandchildren that have been welcomed into their home over the years.