

# Bill CADE

*Class of 1975*

Bill Cade attended Broken Arrow Public Schools twelve years. He was on the wrestling team and track & field. After graduation he began employment with the City of Broken Arrow in the Parks Department. After a few months he transferred to the Sanitation Department because he believed it was more challenging and there were more opportunities for growth in the department. In the 1980's, Bill joined the 279th Infantry of the National Guard. After basic training, he returned to his employment at the city while serving in the Guard for six years.

He started off as a collector on the rear of the truck, then advanced to a driver/crew leader. He was promoted to the manager position, his current role, over the Sanitation Department. It is now the Solid Waste and Recycling Department. In this current role, he also serves as acting Department Director in the absence of the Director. Bill has been with the city for more than 46 years.

Bill's care and compassion for children and families prompted him to start the Sanitation Santa program. After seeing a little boy named Chris running behind his bike-riding friends, trying to keep up with them, Bill was moved with compassion. He asked the boy's mother if he could buy her son a bike for Christmas. "She

was overwhelmed that somebody would do that," Bill said. "And to see that little dude's face light up! I bought him a bike, and it started right there."

He talked it over with the people in his department. They decided on the name "Christmas For Kids" for the program. They immediately started putting their money together and buying presents for people having hardships at Christmas. "I think it shines a positive light on the Solid Waste and Recycling Department," Bill said. "I want our department to stand out for doing something special for the kids." City staff from other departments also donate to the program. They have delivered Christmas miracles to Broken Arrow children in need, impacting lives of Broken Arrow families for more than 40 years.

Jerry Schuber says he first learned of the program in July after becoming the department director. He thinks the program is "amazing." "It was here when I got here, and Bill started talking to me about it, and I was astonished it had been going on this long," Schuber said. "And I think Bill's the driving factor of why it stays alive."

According to Kim Bailey, Risk Management Coordinator for the City of Broken Arrow, the Solid Waste and Recycling Department employees became known for



refurbishing used bicycles and gathering new toys and clothes for local children in need.

"Bill works with area schools to find the children who would benefit most. He hopes to bless the parents as much as the kids. Employees sponsor families, wrap and tag the gifts. Sanitation Santas deliver them to the families by Christmas Eve," she said.

"They're the ones who raised them all year and have hardships," Bill said. "If they love their children enough to humble themselves so their children can have a good Christmas, we're not going to take credit. We don't want to take away the best part of Christmas from the parents. The Sanitation Santas don't want any credit or notoriety for their gifts. It isn't about keeping score or gaining publicity."

In Bill's spare time, his hobbies include spending time with his eight grandchildren, fishing, horses, cattle and anything else that involves his family. The word is out: Sometimes Santa wears a Cowboy hat.