

Welcome to Carnival

With great pleasure and a sense of awe, I find myself reflecting upon the magnificent journey of Carnival Memphis over the past year. Like the lyrics of Tom Petty, "And if you ever wonder why you ride this carousel, You did it for the stories you could tell," experiencing Carnival is akin to an alluring carousel ride. Our imaginations soar, laughter fills the air, and the joy of the occasion transcends age. As the carousel spins, its ups and downs remind us that Carnival never ceases, continuously bringing us together for exhilarating adventures.

At the core of Carnival Memphis lies our fourfold purpose: charity, community, commerce, and celebration. In the realm of charity, we fulfilled our mission by raising funds for Streets Ministries, LeBonheur Seacrest Studio, and For the Kingdom – organizations that have an immense impact on our beloved city. Since the inception of our Children's Charity Initiative in 1999, we have raised over \$4 million with matching funds for local non-profits, and we are hoping to announce a record donation amount this week.

Our dedication to commerce was showcased through our esteemed B & I Luncheon, where over 450 individuals came together to honor those who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of Memphis. The presence of distinguished guests, including the Police Commissioner, Fire Chief, Shelby County Sheriff, and Navy representatives, along with the unwavering support of families and individuals, reinforced our belief in a brighter future for our city.

Building a strong community is a cornerstone of our endeavors. From engaging in various events throughout the year, such as Grand Krewe coronations, fundraisers, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Boll Weevils' escapades, Carnival Memphis successfully unifies our city, uplifting our community on all levels. While we strive to make a meaningful impact, we also relish the joyous moments shared along the way.

The pinnacle of celebration arrived with our 14th Annual Krewes for Kids event, where we not only raised a substantial sum but also reveled in an evening of sheer joy. My heartfelt gratitude extends to Martha Robertson, Molly Goggans, the K4K Committees, Grand Krewe members, volunteers, and attendees who contributed to the resounding success of this unforgettable event.

It has been an honor to embark on this extraordinary journey alongside King Chase, Queen Elizabeth, and their families. The dedication displayed by countless



The Roberts Family, left to right:
Richy, Christina, Preston and Collier

individuals, particularly Ed Galfsky, who shape Carnival Memphis fills me with profound humility. I treasure every moment of this experience, and I am eternally grateful for the unwavering support of my remarkable wife, Christina, and our incredible children, Collier and Preston.

Serving as President of Carnival Memphis has reaffirmed the greatness of being a Memphian and the immense offerings our city provides. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Carnival for bestowing upon me this incredible opportunity.

As we set our sights on the 2023 Carnival Week, Metallica sang it best, "Ride the Carousel and cast a magic spell." May the spirit of camaraderie and celebration continue to infuse our souls as we forge ahead on this remarkable journey. Cheers to Carnival Memphis!

Richy Roberts

Richy Roberts
2023 President