

# Radio disc jockey, staff play Santa

► **Listeners' response was 'overwhelming.'**

By **Derek Ali**  
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Bob Summers and his WROU FM radio station cohorts usually spend from dawn to mid-morning each day cracking jokes, pushing puns and otherwise clowning around.

The U-92 morning crew, which includes morning host and production director Summers, program director Marco Simmons and news director Latisha Perry, use that lighthearted humor to wake people up between 6 and 10 a.m. daily.

But Summers' serious and compassionate sides took the forefront a couple weeks ago when he engaged in a personal project to bring the joy of the Yuletide into the home of a Trotwood woman with poor health and five children.

"The mother has cancer; she's been ill," Summers said. "I said I was going to try to help this family out."

Summers contacted several community service agencies without success until he called the Dayton Urban League. A woman there put him in touch with a company less than a year old that agreed to purchase toys and a Christmas tree for the family.

A group of men over 50, who model to raise funds for charitable purposes, presented the family with \$200 worth of groceries.

Other people said they'd send checks.

Summers is ecstatic over the response.

"It's just nice that we can pull together to help each other for the holiday," he said. "I was very



Tia Robinson, center, got a Christmas delivery from Charles Crawford, left, of Mystic Gentleman and Bob Summers of WROU. Tia has cancer and is raising five children.

touched by the people who are calling to help. I didn't know how I was going to help this family."

Helping Tia Robinson, 31, was important to Summers because he said he knew, even though she was sick, she cared for three biological children and a nephew and niece, both of whom are autistic.

"She's off her feet right now. I decided I was going to take that family and make sure they had what they needed for Christmas," he said.

Summers said Robinson's big concern was that the children had toys and she didn't know how she was going to get them.

"I called various agencies and it seemed like everybody I called (had) picked their children they were going to take care of for

Christmas, before Thanksgiving," he said.

Urban League employee Marsha Martin put Summers in touch with Christine Arquilla, president of Gabriel Staffing Services, a four-month-old Dayton company that was trying to help needy families over the holidays.

Meanwhile, Summers mentioned the family once on the Dec. 12 morning show and the response was overwhelming. The male models, who call themselves the Mystic Gentlemen, came through as a result of the broadcast.

"A few listeners said they wanted to send a money donation which they are doing on their own," Summers said. "And actually just a few minutes ago, I heard from Omega Psi Phi and

they are going to donate a fruit basket for the family ... Another lady is going to send money

"It's just nice that we can pull together and help each other for the holidays. Bottom line, it's going to make a special Christmas for this family that other wise would have nothing."

Robinson, who just returned to the Dayton area from Alabama, is pleased with the generosity.

"Bob Summers is a very good friend of mine. He knew the situation about my health condition and he knew I wasn't going to be able to do much for my children," she said.

When her health is better, Robinson competes in body fitness competitions and sings.

She said she's grateful for the gifts because they'll help make this Christmas season brighter. Yet, she said her children would not have been devastated without the gifts.

"I think it's great because it was definitely unexpected. There are people that will help, but to be one of the few to get help from the people, I look at it as a blessing," she said. "In my eyes, it would have been still special because I think about last Christmas, how sick I was last Christmas. But when I look at it through my kids, it would have been depressing and disappointing to not witness them enjoy the day like other families."

However, she said, "They know that it isn't about how many gifts you get under the tree, or who's going to give what to whom. They know it's about Jesus' birthday. They know if you can, you give from the heart; and if you don't have it, you don't. They've been there."

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