

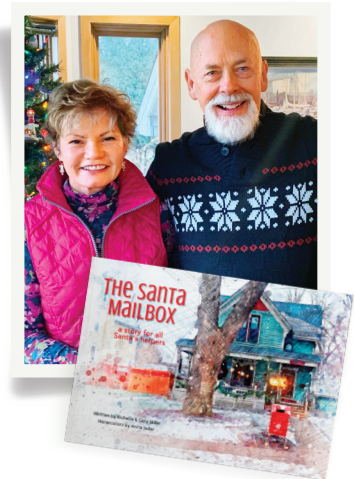
HAPPY PLACE

# “We make holiday magic with our *Santa Mailbox*”

Meet Kris Kringle's secret helpers: **Richelle and Gary Jader**

Six years ago when neighbors of Richelle and Gary's in Hudson, WI, moved away, they asked the couple to take over their special "Santa Mailbox" tradition. It involves placing the mailbox on their street and writing back to anyone who drops off a letter for Santa. The Jaders, both former nurses, accepted the task, and that first year they replied to nearly 200 letters. What's especially impressive: Each response is handwritten and personalized based on details shared by the letter writer. "We manifest Santa and try

to make his voice and spirit come through," says Richelle. In 2020, during the pandemic, the number of letters doubled. "The ones we received that year were so touching—they were filled with love and hope," says Gary. This meaningful experience inspired them to write a book called *The Santa Mailbox* that includes some of the real letters and encourages readers to reignite the spirit of Christmas. "Who doesn't want to spread joy?" says Gary. "When we make 300 kids happy, we're also touching their siblings and parents. It's a ripple effect of joy."



Richelle and Gary's heartwarming book will resonate with both adults and children. Snag a copy at [thesantamailbox.com](http://thesantamailbox.com).



Letters to  
**SANTA**



#### *time well spent*

The box sits outside from the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas Day, and the Jaders clock around 100 hours answering letters each holiday season.



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The Santa Mailbox