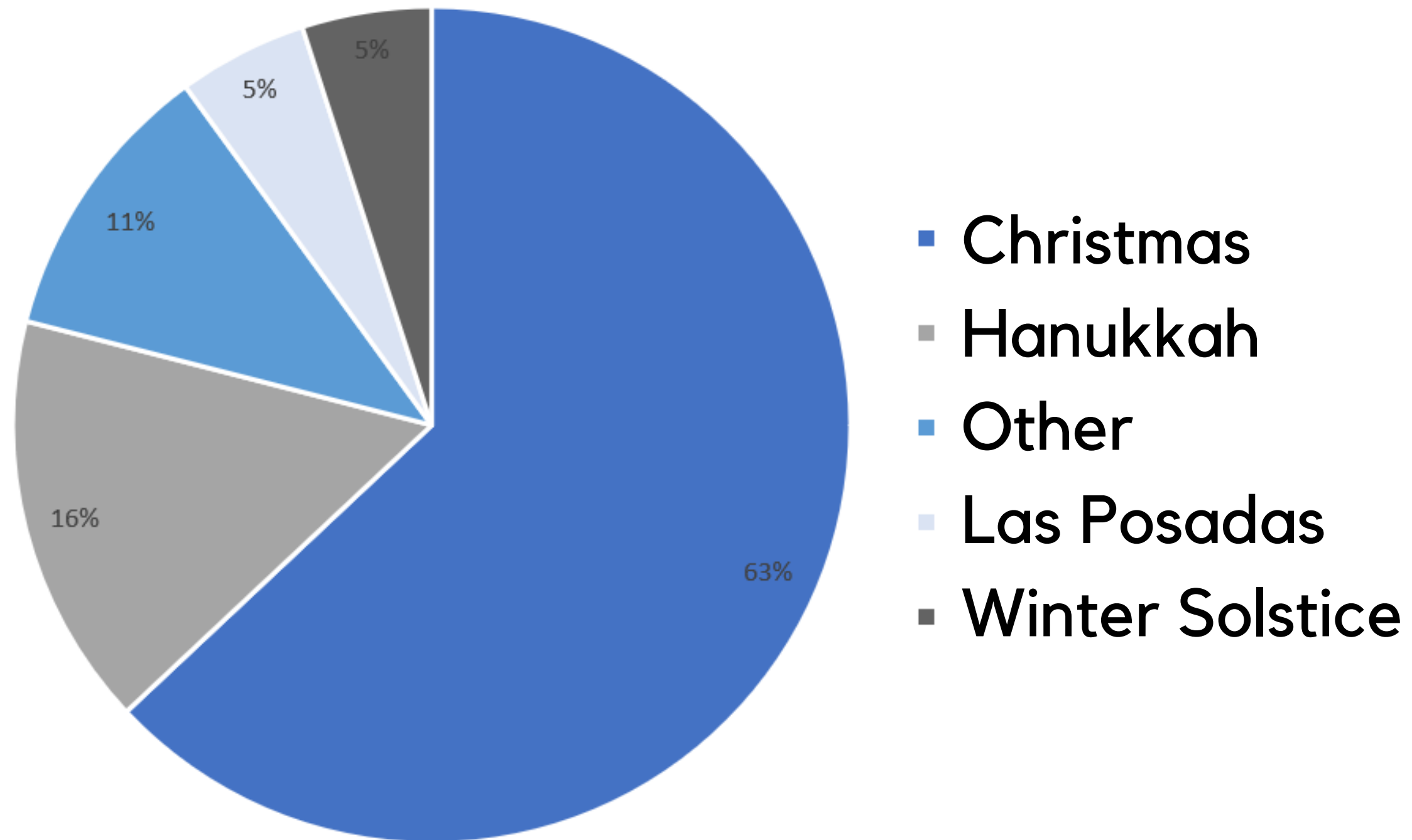


# How Staff Celebrate the Winter Holidays





# Siwya Leventhal



**Celebrates:** Hanukkah

**Holiday Tradition:** My kids enjoy lighting the candles every night, playing dreidel and singing songs.

**Photo:** My 8 year old Elliot, my 3 year old Hattie and me in the middle. We are standing behind a big menorah (we hosted a mobile menorah lighting for our synagogue at our house on the 2nd night of Chanukah).



# Charles Vincent



**Celebrates:** Christmas, Winter Solstice,  
Festivus

**Holiday Tradition:** Every year we wrestle the family dogs into seasonal headgear with excessive treat bribes.

**Photo:** Duke and Goose in holiday spirit!



# Corey Foster

**Celebrates:** Christmas

**Holiday Tradition:** We get together with extended family in Wisconsin on Christmas Eve for a huge potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange. Christmas morning we exchange gifts with our immediate family, and spend time outside playing in the snow.

**Photo:** Our daughter, Parker, playing in the snow after opening presents Christmas morning.





# Aurora Becerra

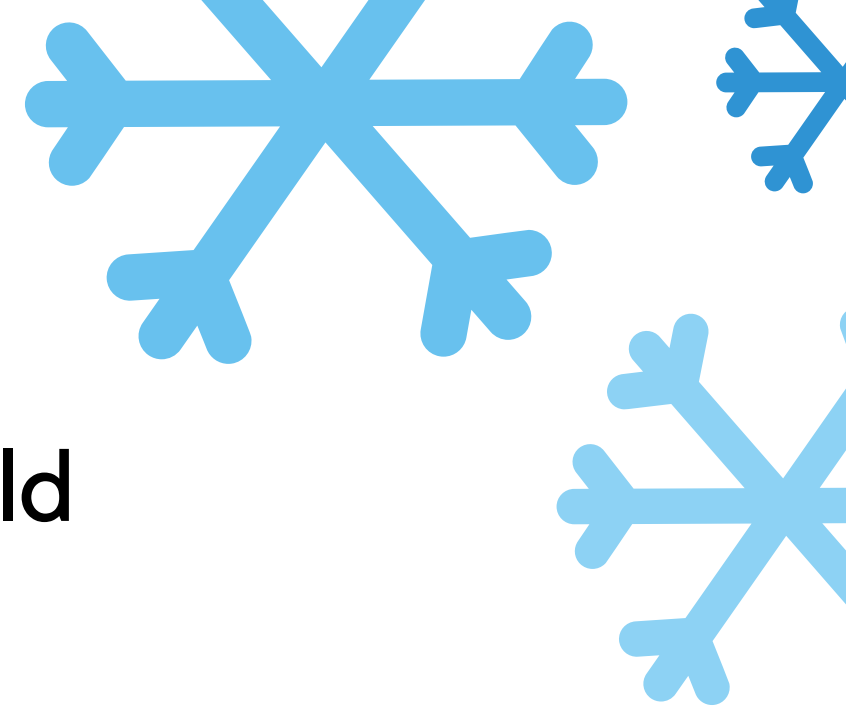


**Celebrates:** Christmas

**Holiday Tradition:** Every Holiday season, the women in my Mexican American family get together and make dozens of homemade tamales for the entire family. Everyone picks up their dozens and enjoys them for the holiday season. It's been going on for decades now and is a time honored tradition.

**Photo:** My grandmother, great aunt, and mother in the assembly line making tamales.

# Notable Traditions



**Matt Winser-Johns:** Looking at Christmas lights in the Deerfield neighborhood!

**Anna Hamilton:** In my family, we stopped doing presents awhile back and just make donations to charities with the money instead.

**Joey White-Swift:** We always went to the Chinese Buffet since Christmas was also my mother's birthday and she did not want to cook. It became a meeting of friends and family and was always a fun time with good food.

**Janice Gebhard:** We go see the Vocal Majority Christmas program at the Eisemann.



# Catherine Boynton

**Celebrates:** Christmas

**Holiday Tradition:** My favorite tradition is the walk back to my grandma's house from church on Christmas Eve. A few people head out early and hide with jingle bells so the kids think Santa is near as they are leaving. They get so excited and it brings back that Christmas magic.

**Photo:** My husband, Alex, and I at a light display in Tulsa, Oklahoma. There are thousands of lights to look at and walk through.



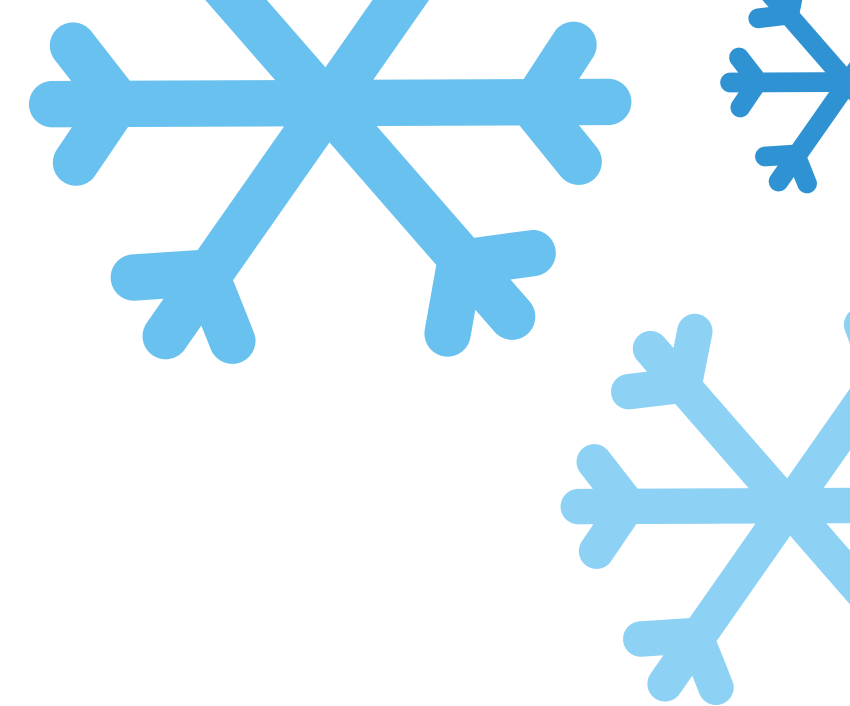


# Cassie Cure

**Celebrates:** Christmas

**Holiday Tradition:** The day after Thanksgiving, my family and I put up holiday decorations while watching our favorite Christmas movie, "Christmas Vacation." Then, in the evening, we go see a new movie in theaters.

**Photo:** My mom and I like to see The Nutcracker ballet every year at Bass Hall in Ft. Worth.





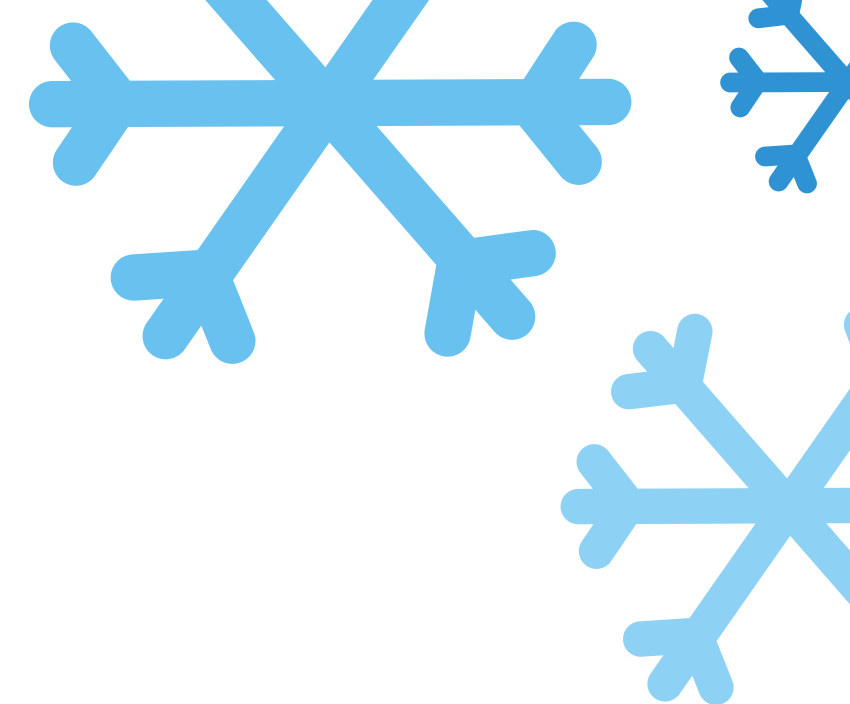


# Melissa Wyder

**Celebrates:** Thanksgiving

**Holiday Tradition:** My mom loved decorating for the holidays and my dad loved complaining about the number of lights on the tree. Mom would have scavenger hunts for the grandkids involving her decorations on the tree and all over the house.

**Photo:** I inherited this tree from my parents along with many of the family ornaments.





# Katy Jordan Sanders

**Celebrates:** Christmas

**Holiday Tradition:** Every year we open one gift on Christmas Eve and it's always matching pajamas. We change into them and watch a silly holiday movie while drinking hot chocolate as a family.

**Photo:** My husband and I got married last December. On our honeymoon we decided to start a family tradition for the two of us; baking and decorating sugar cookies while watching Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964).