

“100 + Years of Service”

News Release

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The Kendall County Fair Association provides us with the Kendall County Fair on Labor Day Weekend each year, with great music, family fun, rodeo, carnival and Stock Show...but not too many of us know about the programs that go on all year long due to the volunteerism and funding efforts of KCFA.

When asked, most folks will say that they know about the Kendall County Fair but do they know the mission of the Kendall County Fair Association? Established in 1905 and having existed as a nonprofit organization since becoming incorporated in 1913, they are probably the longest lived nonprofit agency in Kendall County and they have been giving back in so many ways to our Hill Country community for over 100 years.

The mission of KCFA is to encourage and promote agricultural, horticultural and livestock education and related interests of the citizens of Kendall and surrounding counties and as a recognized IRS nonprofit agency, they continue to fulfill their mission each day.

The land, 55.6 acres donated by Ferdinand Van Herff family, is utilized for the Fair, other fundraisers and for various agriculture and livestock shows, agricultural education events, youth organizations, civic groups and other nonprofit agencies and by the general public for various events and celebrations and even as a home for horses within the horse barns on the KCFA grounds.

Leon Brimhall, current KCFA President took pride in stating, “KCFA provided almost a half million dollars in reduced or free rentals to non profit organizations, religious groups, youth groups and other civic organizations within the past two years alone, not to mention the last 100 years!” KCFA donated a total of \$225,000 in reduced or free rental facilities to the hill country community in 2007 and increased their donations in 2008 to a total of \$253,450. Organizations complete a request for assistance to the KCFA Board of Directors and upon approval, are

provided with the donated services. Sometimes the assistance is at a very personal level. KCFA is providing faculties for two local benefits on May 16th and 17th for the family of deceased police officer, Paul Patel and for a cancer patient, Janie Pool, to assist them both with massive medical bills. .

Organizations that have benefited from the KCFA Community Facilities program are the Boys and Girls Club of Boerne, the Cub Scouts of America, the Friends of the Boerne Public Library. The Kendall County Junior Livestock Association and the Kendall County 4-H Horse Club have been leasing the KCFA grounds for their programs for decades at virtually no cost to their organizations. It is the mission of KCFA to assist other nonprofit youth organizations by providing ample room for their programs and fundraisers on the KCFA grounds so as to encourage youth agricultural education and youth development programs in Kendall County.

KCFA has its own Youth Agricultural Program which has a great agenda of its own. KCFA provides the Labor Day Livestock Show during the fair every year which involves over 200 youth from throughout the Texas Hill Country and beyond showing steers, lambs, goats and pigs. The KCFA Youth Agricultural Program provides opportunities for service learning, leadership, animal husbandry and agricultural education as children and youth learn how to care, feed and show livestock.

In 2009 KCFA plans to involve over 800 youth in this program. Denise Vadnais, KCFA Youth Agricultural Program Director, stated, "KCFA has made plans in 2009 to expand that program to hold additional sanctioned livestock shows and to provide for the sponsorship of the participation of at-risk and special needs youth from the Boerne Independent School District who may not otherwise experience the joy of raising and showing a stock animal."

Dedicated women as the Women's Auxiliary of KCFA, gather together each month to directly assist women in the areas of business development within the arts, education, agriculture, horticulture and heritage so as to enhance the quality of life within our rural community. The Women's Auxiliary was established in 1967 and has assisted women to grow in involvement and knowledge ever since. "The Ladies, as we like to call ourselves", states Sally Beer, current WA of KCFA president, "work hard all year to help promote the overall mission of KCFA as we also assist women in home based craft businesses through our Oma's Christmas Craft Show every December."

The KCFA Homestead Heritage Exhibit Hall Program has historically established a learning environment while honoring the past and showcasing the present to encourage the appreciation of our heritage and to encourage agriculture in Kendall County by providing for an avenue for the community to showcase their projects. Every year during the Kendall County Fair the Exhibit Hall brims with local exhibits and diverse displays from wool, vegetables, baked goods, quilt making and other needle work to antiques and taxidermy. The KCFA Homestead Heritage Exhibits provide a smorgasbord of country and agricultural experiences that exemplify American agriculture and rural knowhow.

“The children’s exhibits encourage academic excellence and pride as children learn self discipline, investigation and goal setting while they plan and work on their entry for months ahead of the Fair.”, said Marilyn Culak, Exhibit Program Lady Manager.

The activities do not end with the Kendall County Fair each year. In fact they do not begin there either. They began over 100 years ago and KCFA is still giving back to the Kendall County community each day. KCFA is fully a volunteer organization that maintains their programs for the benefit of the whole community on a day-to-day basis.

KCFA will continue to serve this community into the future. The KCFA Master Plan for the next five years has within it a vision of a 5,000 seat capacity covered arena and multi-use convention facility that will put Kendall County and Boerne on the map as a venue for major equestrian shows, stock shows, conventions and seminars. KCFA is currently consulting with Matkin Hoover Engineering and Surveying and SA Partnership Architects who are providing their service so that together, they can formulate the future vision of KCFA.

The expansive programs of KCFA are very expensive to fund and each year the KCFA Board of Directors work hard as volunteers to raise all the funding necessary. You can also help by donating toward the KCFA mission, sponsoring a part of their fundraisers such as the Kendall County Fair on Labor Day Weekend, by becoming a working member of their all volunteer organization or by renting the halls and grounds. Please send your donation, membership or rental request to KCFA, P. O. Box 954, Boerne, Texas 78006 or by calling KCFA at 830-249-2839. You can also currently contact them via email at officekcfa@gvtc.com or by visiting their web page at kcfa.org.