



ELIZABETH STAMPEDE RODEO

Elizabeth Rodeo Association, Inc.

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TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK

PRESS RELEASE

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Stampede owes reputation to volunteers

Eight “Best Small Rodeo” titles didn’t happen by accident. Instead, the Elizabeth Stampede earns raves and makes waves year after year through the magic of caring, dedicated volunteers.

“It is amazing to see what this group of people conjures up every year,” said Karen McGrath, a longtime Elizabeth Stampede volunteer reflecting on the dozens of men and women responsible for the event’s continued success and popularity.

The army of volunteers that produces the Elizabeth Stampede every year in June, bringing thousands of visitors to Elbert County, is committed to building a better event and along with it, a better community. They do the job with flair and they manage to have a heap of fun.

“We affectionately call ourselves a family,” McGrath said, adding that Stampede volunteers work and enjoy life in Elbert County together all year long. “We have barn dances, we ride horses and meet for dinners. We take care of each other when we need to be there for one another—for anything. We don’t just work the rodeo once a year.”

Along with friendships and year-around social activities, Elizabeth Stampede volunteers share a sense of pride in their contributions. Don Pierce, who steers the Stampede’s Tough Enough to Wear Pink breast cancer awareness and fund-raising effort, is close to the cause.

“I found the perfect match in the Elizabeth Stampede’s Tough Enough To Wear Pink Committee, because my mother and two aunts had breast cancer. I feel my efforts make a difference and it is very rewarding,” he said.

Pierce started volunteering with the Elizabeth Stampede three years ago when an enthusiastic volunteer – Ginger McIntire – piqued his interest.

“I feel that if you make your living out of a community, you have an obligation to give back to that community. Volunteering for the Stampede gives me the chance to do that while working to preserve a lifestyle that I truly love,” said Pierce, an Elizabeth real estate broker and business owner.

The Elizabeth Stampede is always looking for energetic and committed men and women to join its extended family of volunteers. Interested individuals can virtually write their own volunteer job descriptions with the variety of committee’s and functions that need assistance and/or stewardship.

The Stampede’s list of committee’s runs the gamut from rodeo royalty and hospitality, to promotion, community relations, entertainment, ticket sales, security, facilities and much more.

”There are multiple opportunities for people to donate their time, whether it’s just a day at the rodeo, or a little bit throughout the year,” McGrath said.

The invitation to volunteer with the Elizabeth Stampede is an open one. Anyone interested in helping the Elizabeth Stampede earn the “Best Small Rodeo” for an ninth time in 2008 is welcome to contact the Stampede office, 303-646-0308, or get in touch with any of the dozens of current volunteers. Prospective volunteers can always visit the Stampede web site, www.elizabethstampede.org, for more information.

“I would not only recommend to my friends and neighbors that they get involved, but I would urge them to do so,” Pierce said. “It is a great opportunity to work with some really neat people while helping preserve our lifestyle and in the case of Tough Enough To Wear Pink, help a very deserving cause.”