

Helping Hands Make Light Work

The 2008 Henry County Fair celebrated 60 years of good old-fashioned fun with 4-H exhibits, canned goods, needlework, fine arts, quilts, vegetables and flowers on display. Traditional events including the horse show, dog show and livestock shows, queen pageants and baby show were enjoyed by local fair goers. And, area citizens found their way to the fairgrounds to enjoy the car smashing good time at the demo derby and the loud roar of the tractor/truck pull. Two new events this year included an orchestra and local musical talent coupled with a celebrity cake auction to support a local charity.

So many things happen at the hometown Fair. And, to make things happen, volunteers are the key to success. From setting up to tearing down, from flipping burgers to handing out ribbons and judging exhibits, youth and adults worked together to get the tasks accomplished.

None of the Fair would happen without capable volunteers. I couldn't possibly list all the volunteers because I would leave someone out. I just want to give accolades to the hundreds of volunteers who work to make the Henry County Fair a success. From the fairboard members who work year around to make and implement plans, to those who come for several hours on 4-H judging night, the 60th annual fair was a success because of them.

Why do people volunteer? There are actually about twenty primary reasons people volunteer. However, I am just going to mention a few reasons our volunteers help at the fair.

Some do it because they believe in the traditions of the Fair or because they believe in 4-H/FFA. Others are there because they say, "someone did it when I was a child and it's my turn to do my part". Others volunteer for social reasons; they like being with the others who volunteer. It is like old home week at the Fair. We may see the volunteers only at fair time and we catch up on the happenings of the previous year. Or, they are new to town and want to meet others and volunteering allows a chance to meet other people. Still others do it to simply fill time.

Volunteering is a personal mission that allows us to help others. And research is clear, helping others makes *us* happy. I guarantee there were some very happy people at the close of the Fair because we had many volunteers putting in many hours.

We are fortunate, in Henry County, to be surrounded by a volunteer spirit. From the Fair to Olde Glory Days to the animal shelter, we have many caring neighbors who give their time,

talents and energy to others. I remember my Grandmother always saying, “helping hands make light work.” She was right.