

Texas Juniors Lend a Helping Hand

by Keely Hamman

The Texas Junior Hereford Association and the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association join together every year for the Texas state preview show. Each year, the associations collect necessary items for in-need organizations and families, not only to help out, but to connect with other ways of life as well.

The community service projects began in the early 1990s through the Chastain family. Originally Lee Chastain, just a young grade school student at the time, was looking for a statewide project to add to his 4-H record book. After doing

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much thinking, Lee and his family decided what better way was there to do a community service project than with the help of the fellow Texas Hereford juniors? Little did they know that 20-plus years later their idea for a community service project would become a traditional and welcoming aspect at the annual Texas state preview show.

Throughout the years, the Texas juniors have completed a variety of projects such as planting trees, collecting perishable food items and helping clothe the needy.

Bethany Nolan, previous Texas Junior Hereford Association president, says, “It is such a great way to interact with the community while spending time with our Hereford families.”

As a group, all of the juniors and their families come together to ensure that the needs around their “home for the week” are met. The Texas juniors have purchased fence posts, barbed wire and other fencing supplies

to help the fire-stricken ranches throughout west Texas.

“After the wildfires in west Texas a couple of years back, we were able to collect about two or three pallets of barbed wire and about two or three pallets of fence post to help out the farmers and ranchers in the area,” says Jack Chastain, Texas Hereford Association manager.

In addition, Jack recalls a service project pertaining to landscaping in the dry San Angelo heat and soil, noting that it was a “wild and wicked” experience, resulting in three broken ax handles and what seemed like a few broken backs for some of the fathers.

Recently, the juniors and their families were able to interact and connect with residents at the Pavilion Hospital of Amarillo, a psychiatric hospital and mental health care system. The group brought in supplies needed by the hospital to furnish and comfort the



Collected metal fence posts and barbed wire for ranches that lost fence from the Panhandle fire.



Planting trees and plants around North Texas State Fairgrounds.



Games, toys and personal grooming items were collected for the Advo Company which cares for special needs adults and children.

residents. A few of the residents even came to the expo center and were able to interact with the Hereford breeders and cattle.

“It is very heartwarming and rewarding, not just knowing that we helped out, but knowing that because of our actions we were able to possibly change a life,” Bethany explains. “The community service projects not only help the ones in need, but also help the ones that are giving. It is always such a blessed experience.”

Hosted in different locations, this year’s show will be at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas.

Sarah Hamman, director of this year’s community service project, says, “We are excited to work with the McLane Children’s Scott and White Hospital. Everyone will be collecting items such as batteries, electronic and board games, clothes and other items that young children would like.”

With more than a century of experience, McLane Children’s Scott and White Hospital’s mission is “to provide the most personalized, comprehensive, and highest-quality health care, enhanced by medical education and research” to the children of Central Texas. **HW**