



Washington **STATE FAIR**

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY IN 2016

No successful company or organization is an island; they must be part of their community. The Washington State Fair understands the importance of working on a wide range of community projects in an effort to make our area a better place to live and work. When the Fair first started in 1900, the goals were to provide animal and agriculture education, support youth programs, and to be a part of the community. Those goals have remained constant since the early days, and have been enhanced with the formation of the Washington State Fair Foundation in 2008. Listed below are some of the ways that the Washington State Fair was a community connector in 2016:

- ◆ The Fair is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit entity, yet does not receive any government subsidies.
- ◆ Revenue for the Fair and its subsidiaries in 2016 was \$32.3 million, and expenses were \$32 million. The Fair paid Pierce County over \$1.2 million in property taxes, and paid the City of Puyallup over \$980,000 in admission taxes for both fairs, emergency services, and the business license. The Fair also paid Central Pierce Fire and Rescue over \$184,000 for their services. Capital improvements and property acquisitions came in at nearly \$13 million. The balance of the expenses covered the costs of operating the facility on a year 'round basis. The remaining revenue after expenses each year is put back into improvements of the facility for future growth.
- ◆ The Washington State Fair Foundation's scholarship program has awarded over \$1 million to area students for continuing education since 1991. In 2016 \$111,000 was awarded
- ◆ The Washington State Fair Foundation's Traveling Farm visited 54 elementary schools in the 2015/2016 season, teaching young children about food and how it gets from farm to table. They traveled a total of 1,283 miles to educate 9,346 students, all within a 50-mile radius of the Fair.
- ◆ A total of 861 elementary students (kindergarten - third grade) participated in 35 Educational Tours, a free tour in September for children focusing on agriculture, animals, history and much more. The children came from eight schools in 15 school districts.

- ◆ A total of 654,546 complimentary student gate passes and over 113,532 educational employee passes were issued to western Washington schools in 2016.
- ◆ Approximately 7,500 Fair employees were hired in September, including workers at exhibits and with concessionaires. Most employees are from this area.
- ◆ There are nearly 50 year 'round staff members working at the Fair, plus 50 who work part time throughout the year.
- ◆ Exhibitors and concessionaires paid employees wages in 2015 starting at \$9.47/hour, with some exhibitors offering employees commission.
- ◆ For over 72 years the Fair has welcomed the Scouts for their training program, and to demonstrate a variety of skills to Fair guests.
- ◆ Campfire has been at the Fair for over 72 years. Kindergarten through 18-year-old boys and girls submitted over 350 entries in 2016, including cooking, baking, sewing, handcrafts, photography, pottery and writing.
- ◆ Junior and senior high school artists entered 1,120 pieces in the annual September show.
- ◆ In 2016, the facility hosted 162 interim events, totaling 307 event days. Over 500,000 attended these non-Fair activities.
- ◆ The Fair partnered with KOMO 4, KOMO Newsradio AM 1000 / 97.7 FM, and KOMOnews.com and the Puyallup Food Bank, and collected 200,000+ pounds of food on opening day of the Fair in September.
- ◆ The Fair provides their facilities at a reasonable rate for many charitable events, such as public safety training exercises.
- ◆ Full-time staff members donated time, items, and monies to help feed the homeless in our area, adopted neighbors in need during the holidays to make their lives a little brighter, and supported varied community needs.