



Wichita Festivals, Inc.
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Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIVERFESTXXXV HONORS VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS AND PREVIEWS RIVERFEST DOCUMENTARY

WICHITA, Kansas – Wichita Festivals, Inc. a non-profit corporation with the purpose of community celebration, hosted its volunteers and sponsors for a special award ceremony and documentary unveiling party, Thursday, October 19 at the Wichita Center for the Arts.

WFI volunteers of the year, Joyce Houdashelt, Kae Decker and Dana Decker, were presented with the Galaxy Award for outstanding volunteer service during.

“It’s an honor to recognize these three individuals this year with the Galaxy Award,” said Janet Wright, CEO/President of Wichita Festivals, Inc. “They have all contributed greatly to the success of RiverfestXXXV, and we thank them for their outstanding work.”

The Galaxy Award recognizes individuals for outstanding volunteer service. Nominations are open to anyone who serves on the WFI board of directors, WFI committees or volunteers at any WFI events. Individuals are nominated by fellow volunteers. The Galaxy Award has been given annually for over ten years.

Joyce Houdashelt can be seen wherever a volunteer is needed. She has been on numerous committees, has been a board member for Wichita Festivals, Inc. and volunteers for both Riverfest and the Wichita Flight Festival. She was the chair for the first Festival Flea Market.

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Kae and Dana Decker have been in charge of the results room for the Bank of America River Run for 25 years. The mother and daughter team organize 10-15 volunteers to help with the processing of the thousands of finishers.

The event also included a sneak preview of a RiverfestXXXV documentary produced by Joel Fein. The film will make it's debut at the Tallgrass Film Festival, Sunday, October 22. It will also be the first film shown in a new series on KPTS called "Reel Kansas" on November 22 in 27 Kansas counties.

Producer Joel Fein has received an Academy Award nomination for the film "The Buddy Holly Story" and an Emmy for his work on a National Geographic Special "Dive to the Edge of Creation". Co-producers Kelly Fein and Ginger Bynorth both have a Hollywood past. Kelly started in Hollywood at MGM Studios in the late 1960s and spent time working on movies such as "Nashville" and "California Split". Kelly met her husband, Joel on the set of the film "The Buddy Holly Story." Ginger Bynorth began in Wichita in stage entertainment then transitioned to broadcast and ended up in digital film. She is co-owner of little Warrior Films with Delno Ebie, who hosted the documentary.

2006 WFI Official Sponsors: AirTran Airways, Bud Light, Coca-Cola, Conrady Western, Cricket Communications, Don Hattan Chevrolet, Fahnestock Heating, A/C and Electric, Foley Supply, Jajo, Inc., Metro Courier, Printing, Inc., Signs Now, VPM, Inc., Wichita Marriott Hotel and York International.

For more information about Wichita Festivals, Inc. or Riverfest, please contact Susan Burchill, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at (316) 267-2817, ext. 25 or at susan@wichitafestivals.com

Wichita Festivals, Inc. is a non-profit corporation with the purpose of creating diverse community celebration within the Wichita community. The primary event produced by Wichita Festivals, Inc. is Riverfest.

Creating an economic impact of approximately \$26 million, Riverfest annually attracts more than 350,000 visitors. The Festival has become one of the top special events in Kansas and was recognized in 2006 as one of the top 100 events in the United States by the American Bus Association.

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