

San Joaquin County Historical Museum

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News Release

Volunteers provide \$640,000 worth of work at San Joaquin County Historical Museum

The value of volunteers has long been recognized, but a measurement for the dollar value of a volunteer hour reveals just how invaluable volunteers are.

San Joaquin County Historical Society, the nonprofit organization that operates the museum in Micke Grove Regional Park that preserves and interprets regional history, announced that its volunteers racked up about \$640,000 worth of work in 2006.

The new estimate was released in time to honor volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 15-21. It was calculated based on donated hours reported by museum volunteers, multiplied by a dollar value per hour developed by The Independent Sector.

“Volunteers are the heart and lifeblood of the museum,” said David Stuart, Executive Director. “Volunteer docents conduct the museum’s award-winning educational programs, including Pioneer School and Valley Days for elementary school groups. Volunteers allow us to offer special events, like the upcoming Springtime on the Farm on May 5. And our ‘Monday Mechanics’ restore historic agricultural machinery for museum exhibitions. All in all, museum volunteers contribute hours that total twice those of our paid staff,” Stuart added, “so you can see how much we rely on these generous, talented people.”

The Independent Sector provided the figure based on the hourly wage for all non-management, non-agriculture workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Independent Sector is a non-profit, nonpartisan coalition of about 575 charities, foundations and corporate philanthropy programs.

People interested in volunteering at the San Joaquin County Historical Museum can contact the museum at 331-2055 or 953-3460. The museum is located in Micke Grove Regional Park on Micke Grove Road south of Lodi. The museum office is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the museum exhibits are open Wednesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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