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For the St. Paul Rodeo

THE “BUCKS” OF THE ST. PAUL RODEO

Local charities, organizations benefit from rodeo’s philanthropic giving and support

St. Paul, Ore. (June 23, 2025) – When fans attend the St. Paul Rodeo, they’re doing more than having a good time.

They’re contributing to the nearly 50 organizations that receive community and charity support from the rodeo, both through direct donations and the opportunity to raise funding.

Take, for example, the St. Paul Fire District. The rodeo has supported the district for years, and in turn, the district volunteers at the rodeo, providing advanced life support, fire and EMS, along with transport for everyone at the rodeo.

And rodeo funding goes beyond emergencies, too.

Last year, through funds given by the rodeo, the district was able to upgrade the Christmas decorations that hang downtown during the Christmas season.

“We were replacing one a year,” said Assistant Fire Chief Dan Mullen, due to the expense, and with the rodeo’s donation, they were able to buy new all at once.

Dan Brentano, a volunteer firefighter and St. Paul farmer, said Christmas lights have been hanging on the light poles in town since he was a child.

“I remember, as a kid, tagging along with my dad. It was always the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and it was time to decorate the town for Christmas.”

Sixteen new decorations hang on poles around town, with a big “Happy Holidays” sign across main street.

“We keep it Christmas-y,” Brentano said, “but with a western theme. We decided Christmas is Christmas, but for the kids, we want to make it fun, too.”

This year, the St. Paul Fire District decorated the sidewalk leading up to the St. Paul Catholic Church, with blue spruce trees donated by Ernst Nursery and Christmas lights.

The St. Paul Parochial School and the St. Paul Public School have always benefitted from the rodeo, as youth is a main focus for charitable giving.

This year, the St. Paul School District purchased two pieces of equipment from rodeo funds: a mower and a utility vehicle.

Using rodeo money to buy equipment is a prudent use of funds, said school superintendent Dr. Troy Fisher.

“It helped us to be able to put money towards instructional materials instead of maintenance needs. It’s a big win in that way.

“We’re very grateful to the rodeo and other community organizations, because they do things like this that allow us to put kids first.”

Another organization that the rodeo has given money to is Em’s Fight Foundation.

Organized in 2012 by John and Karren Pohlschneider, the foundation is in honor of their daughter, Emily Pohlschneider, who passed away from cancer in 2011.

The foundation hosts a 5K run every year on the last Sunday in September at French Prairie Gardens, with the rodeo providing a sponsorship.

Emily and her siblings: sisters Katey Meza, Stacey Bunke, and brothers Eric Pohlschneider and Scott Pohlschneider, used to help their parents at the rodeo, with the parade and Booster Club concessions. “Our kids remember counting cash,” Karren said. “They were all involved.” John and Karren were parade chairmen for thirty years and now, as owners of French Prairie Gardens, they donate the hanging plants and flowers.

Em’s Fight Foundation gives money to local people fighting cancer. In the past thirteen years, the foundation has given over \$50,000 to over thirty families.

A few of the other organizations supported by the St. Paul Rodeo include: Boy Scouts of America; CS Lewis Academy; Honor Flight Northwest Oregon; Horses of Hope Oregon; Newberg Kiwanis Foundation; Oregon High School Equestrian Team; Oregon Women for Agriculture; Sherwood Police Foundation; St Paul Catholic Church and School; St. Paul Green Grazers (4-H); the Yamhill Enrichment Society; and more.

Last year alone, the St. Paul Rodeo’s charitable giving totaled more than \$137,000.

The St. Paul Rodeo is July 1-5, with shows each night at 7:30 pm and a 1:30 pm matinee on July 4.

Tickets range in price from \$26-\$80 and are available online at StPaulRodeo.com.

For more information, visit the website or call the rodeo office at 800.237.5920.

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Cutlines:

New Christmas decorations with a western theme line the streets of St. Paul. The decorations were purchased with funding from the St. Paul Rodeo.

Participants celebrate after completing the 5K hosted by Em's Fight Foundation. The foundation receives funding from the St. Paul Rodeo. Photo courtesy Karren Pohlschneider.



