Hudson Family Fundraiser

Program Area: Public Relations & Information (PR/I)
County Farm Bureau: Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau
State: MD
Membership Category: 0-1,000
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Program Description: Five Upper Shore Counties (Queen Anne, Kent, Cecil, Caroline and Talbot) combined their time, ideas and efforts to raise money and awareness for the Hudson Family Lawsuit.

The Hudsons are a local family who own a beef and chicken operation on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. A large and costly lawsuit was brought on to them by the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance. The Upper Shore counties saw it necessary to support SaveFarmFamilies, a newly formed organization which assists with legal costs, and hold a fundraiser. All of the money raised at the fundraiser went to support the Hudson family to pay their legal bills.

The multi-pronged fundraiser was planned and executed by a committee of 20 Farm Bureau members from all five counties; in addition to the members, other various organizations provided support and volunteers. The primary fundraising efforts included a month-long lottery raffle, live auction, silent auction and ticket sales to the main event held on February 18, 2012.

The Queen Anne's County 4-H Park was transformed by sectioning off numerous areas for games, a silent auction, food and drink vendors, eating areas, an information room, a bank for change making, a podium for guest speakers and a large area for the live auction. More than 150 items were donated from businesses and individual families, and there were at least 100 volunteers that gave their time and talents to this five-hour event.

This worthy cause raised a grand total of $108,000 and catered to over 750 people. Through the combined efforts of the five county farm bureaus, awareness of this issue was spread, as well as accomplish much more than they could have individually.