

Cindy Stowe • Convoy for a Cure - USA

Written by Cindy Stowe

I started out trucking on a dare - dared I couldn't do it! Well, I'm not one to lose, so I set off to prove that person wrong! Off to truck driving school I went and three weeks later I passed my exams and had my CDL, plus a job with FFE Transportation.

Now, 17 years later, I can look back at my accomplishments in this industry with a sense of pride. I finished the training period, passed everything they threw at me, and earned my wings to run solo. Two years later I became a trainer, training entry level drivers in the ways of the road and the FFE system. Back then the dream was to be an owner-operator and have a dedicated run with the company, so I bought my first truck in 1995. Within two years, I traded that first truck in for a new one for me; and a new truck for my husband Floyd followed six months later. We successfully ran them on dedicated runs for 12 years, until he decided to get off the road for a while and a health issue sidelined me for four months. When Floyd decided to quit trucking, we took both trucks and traded them both for one. When I got ill, we sold my dream truck, a Kenworth W900 Studio. I loved that truck! Four months after I bought it, I showed it at GATS and came home with a second place trophy! That was quite a feat considering I was up against some of the most experienced show trucks on the circuit!

While we still had the two trucks, I met Corporal Norm Schneiderhan. He started The World's Largest Truck Convoy (WLTC) to ben-

efit Special Olympics the year before and I was hooked on what he was doing. I love helping others and these kids needed help. Through the efforts of many truck drivers, we expanded

WLTC from one convoy to as many as 53. I headed up Texas, earning me the title of Texas Ambassador. Through the past several years, interest in WLTC has waned in some states, including Texas. So in 2008 I was listening to Dave Nemo on the satellite radio and heard about a new convoy starting up in Canada. This one was just for women and they were raising awareness and money for breast cancer. When the convoy was over, I contacted the organizer, Rachèle Champagne and we decided to expand to the USA. Convoy for a Cure - USA was born in 2009.

The first convoy was at Willie's Place in Carl's Corner, Texas where we had 35 trucks and raised \$12,000.

2010 will see the convoy making a move to Terrell, Texas at the Travel Centers of America on Oct. 16th. We added motorcycles in the middle between the women and the support convoy, a trophy for the largest fleet, and a special award for the best decorated truck or motorcycle. Entertainment, food, goodie bags, guest speakers, and lots of fun are on the agenda.

All in all, God has blessed me in the trucking industry with many friends, many accomplishments, and much fulfillment.



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