



The Pioneer Projects and Programs Periodical

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Volume 2 Issue 8

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Message from the President

"Back to School" means "Back to Work" for many of our volunteers who focus on helping students in the United States and Canada start off the school year on the right foot.

With education as a primary focus of our community service efforts, it has come to be expected that Pioneers will provide the support students need. As you will see throughout this issue, Pioneers are making a difference inside and outside of the classroom, from pre-K to pre-med.

There are many organizations that provide for students in September, but what sets Pioneers apart is that we provide support throughout the year. After filling backpacks with supplies, we develop relationships with schools and with teachers that lead to the introduction of programs such as *Power Up To Read* and *Project Connect*.

Pioneers serve as tutors and mentors, as teacher's aids and classroom facilitators. We expand our reach beyond the classroom to paint playground maps, or, as in the case of AT&T De Anza Chapter, we go direct to students living in transitional housing to ensure educational materials are available at home.

This year, we awarded TelecomPioneers Scholarships to 12 high school students preparing for college - and that number only includes the TCP program. Many of our sponsoring companies and Pioneer units sponsor their own scholarship programs.

These are just a few examples of how Pioneers enhance the education experience. Are you going back to school? If so, I encourage you to invite a co-worker, family member or friend to join you - so that they can learn what it means to be a Pioneer.

-Marty Lee, President, TelecomPioneers

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Schedule of Dates to Submit Your Pioneer Articles for Consideration:

August 25, 2008 for the September issue; Theme: Fall Projects (Sept. & Oct.)

September 25, 2008 for the October issue; Theme: Pioneer Day/Week Projects

October 24, 2008 for the November issue; Theme: Holiday Projects

November 21, 2008 for the December issue; Theme: Projects for the New Year

From the Editor's Desk

P4 Celebrates First Year in Circulation!

Having recently celebrated a year in print, the editorial staff of *The Pioneer Projects and Programs Periodical*, which we have nicknamed the "P4", is pleased to report the publication has become integral to our efforts to communicate with members throughout the organization. We'd also like to thank our readers and contributors for helping make the P4 a success.

As we look to the year ahead, we do so with an eye toward continually improving the P4 and its usefulness to readers. The better informed you are, the better the P4 can become and the better we can all serve our communities.

One of the goals of the P4 is to share the ideas and experiences of a cross-section of the Pioneer organization. This means we seek out stories from all groups - and this is where our readers and Pioneer leaders can help.

First and foremost, please continue to send us your stories. Whether you are sending a story idea or a story you have written, we are always looking for opportunities to share your accomplishments.

Our goal is provide opportunities for *all* Pioneer groups to appear in the publication. *Your* role in this process is to get the stories to us. Unlike a major daily newspaper, we do not have the staff to send "out on the street" to unearth breaking news. We rely on you to send the news to us.

When you submit information, please understand that, as the saying goes, "timing is everything." In order to deliver the publication in a timely and consistent fashion, the P4 staff adheres to a strict production schedule. That said, if the timing of your submission does not align with our production schedule, you might not see your article in print until a subsequent issue.

In addition, it could be that you submit an article ahead of deadline, but that its focus is a better fit for the theme of an issue we have planned for a month or two down the road. We ask your patience as we try to traffic stories accordingly. You'll notice we have revised our cover to include upcoming deadlines and themes. We hope this helps you plan your communication with us.

It is also important to note that we cannot print every article or idea we receive. When we receive articles that are similar in nature, we review them for relevancy and measure them against the level of coverage a group or topic is already getting in a particular issue.

As you might imagine, there are many Pioneer projects that overlap in scope. In the case of overlap, we will do our best to choose stories that best represent like efforts. We have not yet reached the point at which we are turning away volumes of story ideas - but it would be a nice problem to have!

So please share your stories and again, thank you for contributing to a successful first year in publication.

(Communication from The Editor's Desk will appear here from time to time to cover points of general interest to readers.)

Aliant's 2007 Sustainability Report

By Michael Sears, Atlantic Canadian Manager, Aliant Pioneers

Each year, Aliant contributes to the well-being of Atlantic Canadian communities. Our organization's strong performance ensures that communities stay connected and benefit from our focus on children and youth. By connecting with our communities, we work to ensure they can succeed in today's dynamic global marketplace.

Aliant's Annual Sustainability Report profiles over two dozen Aliant employees and some of their family members. The report also showcases many projects and activities led by the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers; including a 3-page spread from pages 18-20! In 2007, Aliant invested \$5 million dollars in Atlantic Canadian communities and Aliant Pioneer Volunteers contributed more than 165,000 hours!

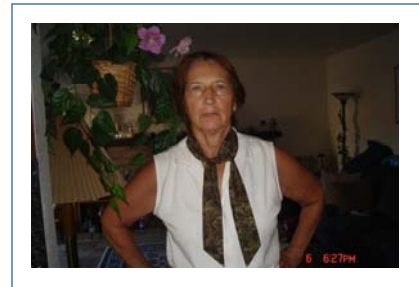
For more information: Access the electronic version of the report online at www.aliant.net/sustainability

New Outlook Cool Ties Project

New Outlook Western Horizon Council Pioneers have made over 800 Cool Ties in the last two months. The council's "Families Serving The Military" project includes the ties as part of care packages sent each month to our troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Cool Ties, which are made to battle temperatures that can reach 117 degrees, are made with 100% cotton and are filled with water absorbing crystals. The tie is soaked in water for 30 minutes at which time they are ready to wrap around the soldiers neck or head to keep them cool. These ties can be used over and over and are washable.

Pioneer modeling a
Cool Tie



Verizon Tools for Schools Project

By Steve Kohn, Vice-President, Verizon TelecomPioneers

Verizon is involved in a new back to school initiative called *Tools for Schools*. The Verizon Pioneers are a major supporter of this effort with many of our members volunteering to be building coordinators to facilitate the collection process and assist in the selection of the schools that will benefit from the initiative.

Many classrooms and students do not have the tools they need to start the school year right. That's where Verizon employees come in. We can help put smiles on faces by sending kids back to school prepared and ready to learn, and we can help ensure that teachers have the supplies they need to furnish their classrooms.

From July 14 through July 25, the Verizon Foundation conducted its first enterprise-wide *Tools for School* employee giving campaign. Through *Tools for School*, employees across all business units are asked to drop off new school supplies (pens/pencils, notebooks, rulers, crayons, backpacks, etc.) in specially marked *Tools for School* collection boxes set up at each participating location.

The goal of the two-week campaign is to help prepare students for academic success by collecting enough school supplies to meet the needs of teachers and students in communities across the country. If each of Verizon's 240,000 employees were to donate \$5 worth of school supplies, we could donate more than \$1 million in supplies to support schools and children in our communities.

At last count I had was that there were 371 Verizon buildings involved and 401 designated beneficiary schools and after school programs.

Pioneer Back to School Projects

New York Metro Club Pioneers are partnering with LI Cares Inc., and NYC organizations are conducting their 4th Annual August *School Tools* supply drive.

The New England Oceanside Club Pioneers will partner with New York to collect and distribute new school supplies to economically disadvantaged school-aged children. All *School Tools* donations will be made available to food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters in the greater New York and Boston metropolitan areas.

The Western NY Club Pioneers and CWA Local 1152 members join forces for their 5th Annual "Stuff-A-Bus" event. The school bus is stuffed with donation items such as backpacks, notebooks, planners, paper, binders, crayons, pens and pencils and will be delivered to inner-city kids in the Syracuse school districts. The Western NY Club Pioneers are working with Staples in partnership with Operation Southern Comfort organization to send school supplies down to New Orleans. The school supplies collected will be distributed to the children of the Belle Chase Parish (county) school district.

The Clarksville Council Life Members in Tennessee brought school supplies to their meeting on July 28th to donate to children in need. The Pioneers also took a first-year teacher to buy supplies for her room. Knowing that teachers spend a lot of money out of their own pockets, the Pioneers wanted to help get a new teacher off on the right foot by purchasing bulletin board supplies and other items she needed.

Florida Chapter Pioneers supported the Lantana Middle Medical Science Academy School in Palm Beach County with a \$10,000 donation. The funds were used to purchase smart boards, Apple laptop computers, video cameras, laser pointers, computer headphones, web cameras, DVD production software, pod-casting software, USB flash drives and presentation easels. After purchasing the equipment, the Pioneers went in to the school and installed the wiring and did all the installation of the new equipment to be sure that everything was up and running for the first day of school.

Odany Aguinaga, President of the South Florida Pioneers, led his Unit to a different spin on starting the New School Year off right! The South Florida Council Pioneers completed its back to school project at Benjamin Franklin Elementary, an "F" rated school; "F" rated schools receive very little funding. Benjamin Franklin Elementary serves 587 students in grades pre-k through grade 5. The school's population consists of a predominantly low-income Haitian community with 94% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. The South Florida Council funded this project and worked with the principal, Mrs. Alonso, to create an outdoor learning center for this school. The outdoor learning center included over 140 plants, 13 benches, and a pond with fish and a waterfall. These areas will be used to create reading gardens where tutors, mentors and parents can gather with students; teachers can also use these areas to teach hands-on science. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to adopt an area of the outdoor learning center and care for the plants, trees, and pond as needed. Along with the building of the outdoor learning center, the South Florida Council Pioneers donated 25 backpacks filled with school supplies from its annual back-to-school drive, which is currently underway.

As the 2007-08 school year was ending at the Turie T. Small Elementary School in Daytona Beach, FL, members of the Ocean Shore Life Member Club were preparing for the beginning of this new school year by delivering 480 *Power Up To Read* books to complement the online program. The Pioneer Members also assisted the school's Computer Information Director in obtaining User ID's and Passwords for the 10 teachers and 210 day students, as well as the 15 tutors and 60 students who will be using PUTR in an after school program. To ensure the after school program is a success, the Pioneers upgraded the existing computers and donated used computers to the school so each student would have one to use. The Ocean Shore LMC Pioneers made sure that all is in place for the children's return to school for the 2008-09 school year.

Pioneers in Centark, AL, completed the *Lights for Literacy Project* for Wilson Elementary School on August 9th. The Pioneers partnered with other groups that hosted a *Give A Kid A Chance Day* where children and parents could come and meet the school personnel as well as pick up backpacks filled with school items for their children with grade-appropriate items, uniforms, and other school supplies. Centark volunteers passed out dictionaries for the children in grades 3 through 5, and distributed books to the children in grades pre-K through 2nd. Pioneers also had Spanish to English dictionaries for Hispanic children to help them learn English.

Back to School from page 4

Old Dominion Council in Richmond, VA, sent packages to local schools containing information on *Project Connect*, PUTR, *Thinkfinity*, and the *Dictionary Project*. As all of these comply with Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) requirements, free resources will be a welcome addition to cash-strapped local schools and home-schoolers. This year, home-schoolers are being included for the first time. The *Dictionary Project* is expanding into parts of North Carolina, an exciting addition to local distribution. Additionally, *Tools For Schools* has enabled the council to reach a total of four local schools with school supplies.

As part of New Jersey Chapter's Community Impact Project, *Be a Local Champion*, local telecommunications employees are being asked to make a positive impact on the lives of families and children by making donations of food, clothing, health and hygiene items, and school supplies. Donations will be collected at local building locations in Bedminster, Paramus, Piscataway, Morristown, and Florham Park. The school supply drive portion of the overall project, *Stuff the Bus*, provides new school supplies for children from low-income families to assist them with their studies and help build self-esteem. The New Jersey Pioneers from the Headquarters and Morris County clubs will match employee donations of items or dollars 1 to 1 up to \$10,000. The chapter is also donating more than \$13,000 worth of books (retail value) to help children prepare for the back for school season. Last year, employees at 80 local companies and members of civic organizations and community groups donated more than \$65,000 worth of new supplies to children in need at 43 schools throughout Somerset County alone. The school nurses, teachers, and administrators who confidentially distribute these items to the children, are first-hand witnesses to the effect that new school supplies can have on a child's feelings of self-worth and academic preparedness.

Ohio Pioneers sponsored the *Summer Vacation Project* as a statewide project for 2008. The chapter ordered over 3,070 Summer Bridge Activity Workbooks from Holcomb Publishing. The workbooks were distributed to multiple schools throughout the state of Ohio during the last couple weeks of school. The workbooks were to be used throughout the summer to help retain information the students had learned and prepare them for the following school year. The Pioneer units also informed the children that if they bring the form back to school next year they will be rewarded, as an incentive for each child to work on their workbooks throughout the summer.

The Aliant Pioneer Volunteers in Nova Scotia are using *Power Up to Read* in a unique way this summer. The Pioneers have partnered with Library summers camps in New Glasgow and Antigonish in a Literacy Summer Camp that is led by Senior High School students. This summer camp encourages and rewards students who read, and they are using *Power Up to Read* as one of their literacy goals. Last year, more than 2,900 backpacks were filled by the community-minded teams of Bell Aliant employees, Pioneers, and retirees! These backpacks were distributed to schools and communities based organizations that support families in need. It's a great way to demonstrate the importance of giving back to our communities and to those in need.

Illinois councils and clubs are busy with this year's back to school project for providing back packs to students. The *Tools for Learning* project supplies backpacks loaded with school supplies for area schools for underprivileged and special needs children. The Illinois South Council has launched plans targeted to increase their community reach into the Chicago Southside, Joliet, and the Far South suburbs of Chicago. Mark Abston, VP Community Service, is looking to increase results by 10% from 2007. "We are laying a foundation this year so this project becomes sustainable for years to come with a network of project site coordinators," said Abston. The South Council is teaming an office location with a school location in the area to create the environment for a growing relationship between Pioneers and the institution.

Cindy Doerfler, President of Midstate Council, is focusing on the larger school districts in her area. Fundraisers have been held throughout the year to raise money for this worthwhile project. An upcoming hot dog lunch is planned to raise additional money to purchase backpacks and supplies for the Springfield, Illinois area. Midstate Council will be working closely with the school districts, local ministries, and Catholic charities to distribute the backpacks to the schools in the state capitol.

The Jefferson County Department of Human Resources (DHR) has over 1,200 children in foster care and approximately 1,200 families receiving protective services. Despite limited resources and program budget cuts, there remains a critical need in the state of Alabama for help with school supplies for 900 of these families. The Alabama Pioneers have pledged support to this agency by providing school supplies and uniforms that will prepare children in foster care and protective service programs for school. The Pioneer chapter is partnering with businesses such as Wal-Mart, Office Depot, The Pants Store and other local agencies to assist in this worthwhile endeavor.

2008 Scholarship Award Winners

By Bill Maroney, Director of Communications, TelecomPioneers

TelecomPioneers has helped 12 college-bound students off to a good start by providing them with scholarships to offset costs in their freshman year.

A group of 12 students have been declared winners in the 9th Annual TelecomPioneers Scholarship Program. With unprecedented ties in two groups, judges decided to award two extra scholarships rather than break the tie.

"Our goal is to help as many students as we can," said Marty Lee, President of TelecomPioneers. "All of the applicants submitted impressive credentials and we wish all of them continued success in the classroom."

Each student earned a \$1,000 scholarship which will be forwarded to the school of their choice.

Scholarships are awarded annually to two students in each of the five Pioneer groups. The ties occurred in the New Outlook and Canadian groups.

All applicants are judged by *Scholarship America*, an independent judging service, with winners selected based on community service, school and leadership activities, and academic achievement.

The 2008 TelecomPioneers scholarship winners and the Pioneer group they represent are:

QWEST

Molly Cook
Berthoud, CO

Cari Yeung
Kent, WA

NEW OUTLOOK

Maisie Maupi
Oklahoma City, OK

Aubrie Marks
Fort Collins, CO

Sara Poole
Edison, NJ

FRONTIER

Jennifer Fasciano
Rochester, NY

CANADA

Joseph McSheffrey
Riverview, NB

Amber Johnston
Summerside, PEI

Viliam Koncovy
Quispamsis, NB

VERIZON

Allison Fleming
Berkeley Heights, NJ

AT&T
Sasha Tyson
Beloit, KS

Theresa Boyne
Strongsville, OH



TelecomPioneers would like to congratulate these students for all their accomplishments!

Minnesota Qwest for a Cure

By Kathy Hanson, Minnesota Chapter, Qwest Pioneers

Minnesota Chapter Qwest Pioneers brought their Ride Team and famous *Rest Stop Hospitality Project* to the MS Society to aid in its fundraising efforts.

The Qwest Communications-sponsored bike riding team, called "Team Qwest for a Cure," joined the MS TRAM (The Ride Across Minnesota)- a 275-mile, 5-day fundraiser bike ride through northern Minnesota. Riders, Al Barthel (Team Leader), Gary Greb, and Kathy Hanson (Minnesota Chapter President), raised over \$4,000 in pledges and through a waffle breakfast fundraiser. Funds raised are targeted for MS research efforts and support programs for people living with Multiple Sclerosis in Minnesota.

While the team rides each day, volunteers from the Pioneer Family Campers 10,000 Lakes Club set up and staffed Rest Stop # 3 for them and over 1,000 other riders as they rack up their daily 50 - 60 miles. Rest Stop supervisor, Pioneer Dave Hemmer, calls the volunteer group a "well-oiled machine, friendly, efficient, and loyal to the event." They work hard each day to make the rider experience at the Qwest Rest Stop a memorable one.

The Minnesota MS Society and Qwest Pioneers have built a relationship that meets the goals of each organization, helping others through volunteering.

Pioneer Website: www.qwestpioneers.org/minnesota



From left to right:
Pioneers Kathy Hanson,
Al Barthel, Gary Greb

Different Spin on Cell Phone Projects

By Gloria Pazel, AT&T Pioneers Manager, Florida & Missouri

Selena Quick, one of Florida Chapter's very active Pioneers, took 9 days vacation to be with her children while they were out of school for the summer. Selena and her daughter Lindsay, age 14, made bead clips that can be attached to any zipper, purse, etc. and used them as incentive to encourage neighbors to donate their old cell phones in support of the chapter's Cell Phones for Soldiers (CPFS) project.

After making the beads, Selena and Lindsay went "on the road," loading the beads - along with Selena's four-year-old son Austin -- into his red wagon to roll through the neighborhood making collections. The team, all in their AT&T t-shirts, grew larger when son Richard, 17, and Selena's husband Glenn joined.

They offered the beaded zipper pulls for free with any 2 cell phones donated, and they went like hot cakes! Neighbors were requesting specific colors to match their computer bags, purses, and duffle bags! They canvassed six different Orlando neighborhoods on six different days. The kids loved helping and it was a really fun time for the family, collecting 348 used cell phones to add to Florida's CPFS collection.

The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays CPFS for each donated phone - enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad. Talk time is distributed via pre-paid calling cards.

<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/about.html>

We encourage Pioneers to attend training sessions that are being offered for the programs below. The sessions last about an hour and provide a high-end overview of the programs as well as a visual walk-through of the website features. Pioneers can obtain a username and password (if one has not already been assigned) to navigate and become familiar with the websites. The meetings are offered through WebEx and make great presentations for group meetings.

Project Connect Training Schedule- August:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Monday, August 11, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 21, 2008	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.

Project Connect Training Schedule-September:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Friday, September 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 9, 2008	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 18, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Monday, September 22, 2008	12 p.m.

PUTR Training Schedule-August:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Wednesday, August 13, 2008	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 19, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Friday, August 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.

PUTR Training Schedule-September

Date	Time (Mountain)
Thursday, September 4, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 16, 2008	3:00 p.m.
Friday, September 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.

To register for a WebEx training session please call Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator, at 800-872-5995, extension 250, or e-mail: bwyman@telecompioneers.org

Each session is limited to 15 participants. After you have been registered for a session you will be e-mailed the meeting details. Please try to register at least 2 days in advance.

We will also work with you to schedule PC and PUTR demonstrations during your unit meetings. Please let us know which program you would like demonstrated and when you typically have unit meetings.

If you register for a meeting and you can no longer attend, please either decline the WebEx invitation or contact Bekah to re-schedule for a later date and time.

PUTR in Southern California

By Andrea Jackson, PUTR Chair, AT&T Pacific Chapter Pioneer

Power Up To Read is alive and thriving in Southern California. AT&T Pacific Chapter is actively deploying *Power Up To Read* to schools and community organizations, with the goal in mind of "not leaving one student behind."

With the efforts of the Pacific Chapter, students at Gonsalves Elementary School in Cerritos, Calif., the Asian Youth Center in San Gabriel Valley and Maria Regina School in Gardena, Calif., are reaping the benefits of PUTR. The summer programs are in full swing and PUTR is being utilized with the summer students as well.

Pacific Chapter took on the challenge and the results have been exciting! The response continues as more calls come in asking about PUTR and how to get it.

With great anticipation, Pacific Chapter is energized and focused toward the beginning of the fall school semester and adding more students to the roster.

More about the Pacific Chapter:

The Pacific Chapter is comprised of active and retired AT&T employees. Geographically, our Pioneers perform volunteer work from the foothills of the Angeles Crest Mountains to the high desert of the Palmdale, the beaches along our coast, and the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles.

Our many projects and communities service efforts are as varied, and interesting as the communities that we serve. We make Heart Pillows for the infirm and Hug-A-Bears for children in need of a friend in times of crisis. Our Pioneers provide E911 training for children and seniors, and visit care homes for the elderly. These are just a few of the many projects that we do.

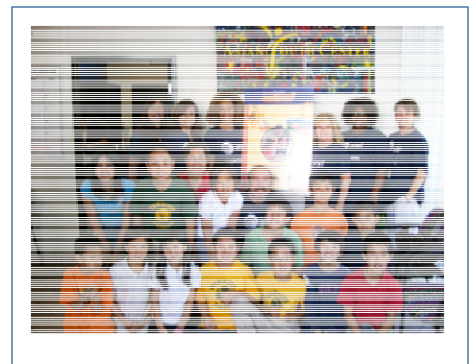
The mission of Pacific Chapter is to "Answer the call of those in need," while providing fellowship opportunities for all employees, retirees, partners and their families; developing the leadership skills of our members; and demonstrating our corporate commitment.

<http://www.attpioneervolunteers.org/PacificCA140/indexCA140.html>



*Gonsalves
Elementary School
(left)*

*Asian Youth Center
(right)*



*Maria Regina School
(right)*



For more information, please contact:

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Baldy Tait in the Limelight

By Bill Buchanan, Immediate Past-President, Aliant New Brunswick Pioneers

Harrison Tait, fondly known as "Baldy", has worked tirelessly a Pioneer since 1971, two years before he was eligible to become a member. Back then he felt he had a choice of either becoming more involved with the union, of which he was a Vice President, or Pioneering. Time would not allow for both, and Baldy chose Pioneering and threw his heart and soul into helping others in his community and his fellow Pioneers. He has given thousands of volunteer hours over his 34 years of service and continues to sit on the New Brunswick Chapter, Moncton New Brunswick Council Executive Committee, providing sage advice as he has done for so many years.

In his heyday, Baldy was the spark plug of the Moncton New Brunswick Council. He initiated many projects, got people together and carried the projects through to their conclusion. Baldy also held every office possible on the Moncton New Brunswick Council and New Brunswick Chapter Executive Board. He is the recipient of numerous awards over the years in recognition of the contributions he has made to both Moncton New Brunswick Council and New Brunswick Chapter Executive Board. Among the awards are: New Brunswick Chapter Regular Member of the Year and New Brunswick Chapter Life Member of the Year for both New Brunswick Chapter and Moncton New Brunswick Council; he was presented awards on several occasions. He and his wife, Ann Tait, who Baldy says is responsible for half the work he has done as an Aliant Pioneer, also have their picture on the Moncton New Brunswick Council Wall of Fame, located in the Council Room, in recognition of their long and dedicated service.

Baldy became so well known for his Aliant Pioneer Volunteers activities in his native New Brunswick, Canada, that for many years he was known as "Mr. Pioneer." People have great respect for him and they listen when he speaks. Baldy still chairs one of the larger yearly Moncton New Brunswick Council projects, his favourite, the *Christmas Boxes for Needy Families*. He has been chairing this event, which comes at the end of his busiest Pioneering period (between September and December), for the past 34 years.

Baldy's many years of involvement at the executive level on both the Moncton New Brunswick Council and New Brunswick Chapter Executive boards helped ensure that projects were carried out throughout the year and that revenues were consistently coming in to finance these projects. The *Christmas Boxes* project alone has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in both food and clothing over the years. How do you measure the impact of donating boxes of food and clothing for needy families for over 30 years, building fences and swings for foster homes, setting up internal telephone systems to help the mentally challenged learn how to use the phone? Perhaps it provided hope to children and their families in a time of need, hope that you would like to believe may have blossomed into them going on to something better.

Perhaps Baldy's biggest impact was becoming involved in Pioneering and then staying involved for so many years at a high level of achievement.



*Baldy with a teacher
for the mentally
challenged, 1977
(left)*

*Baldy with wife Ann
in Operation
Christmas Project,
2006 (right)*



October Madness and the International *Project Connect* Tournament are Back!

TelecomPioneers wants **YOU** to participate!

Last year, Tennessee Pioneers created and executed *October Madness*, TelecomPioneers' first online *Project Connect* tournament, introducing Pioneers all over to a new approach in using PC in the schools and communities. This award-winning project proved to be a great success in promoting PC and recruiting users!

The success of this project led to the PC-16, TelecomPioneers' first International online PC tournament, with students in 13 states and three provinces invited to participate.

This year TCP is combining the two projects to create two levels of a 2008 International *Project Connect* Tournament. In the first round (still called *October Madness*), students will compete on the state/province level to determine one state/provincial winner. The winning participants will advance to the International Tournament to represent their state/province and compete against all other state/provincial winners to find one International PC Tournament champion.

State/Province level:

Six Rounds

9/25, 9/29, 10/2, 10/6, 10/9, 10/17
10/20 (if necessary)

State/Provincial Prizes:

TBD per chapter

National/International level:

Six Rounds

11/4, 11/6, 11/11, 11/13, 11/18, 11/20
11/24 (if necessary)

National/International Prizes:

2 laptops

- 1 for winning student
- 1 for winning entity

3 savings bonds

- \$500 for 1st runner-up
- \$300 for 2nd runner-up
- \$200 for 3rd runner-up

This award-winning project is a great way to market and promote *Project Connect* to schools, extracurricular clubs, community centers, etc. The teachers and the students benefit from PC, and participants get especially excited at the opportunity to compete against other participants from all over the U.S. and Canada!

To view *October Madness*, please visit: www.octobermadness.net for brackets, rules, and general information.

To find out more information and/or to participate, please contact your group coordinator, or:

Kari Biesendorfer, Program Director

Phone: 303-571-9262

Email: kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org

Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator

Phone: 303-571-9250

Email: bwyman@telecompioneers.org



Doc Porter Museum of Telephone History

By Clyde Porter, Museum Curator, San Jacinto South Council Pioneer

The next time you are in Houston, you might want to schedule a visit to the Doc Porter Museum of Telephone History.

The Telephone Museum was created in the basement of the old telephone building in Houston, TX., in 1966. In 1991, it moved to the current location at 1714 Ashland Street in Houston. The museum was rededicated and renamed The Doc Porter Museum of Telephone History on November 4, 2006.

Visitors can see replicas of the first telephone and how it progressed to today's modern picture phones, and everything in between. You can see the phone given to former Mayor Louis Welch on August 26, 1969, when the one millionth phone was installed in Houston. Also, a model of the only telephone to be on permanent display in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City can be seen at this museum. On display is the original version of the world's first picture phone, as well as the early version of e-mail in the teletype display.

The Doc Porter Museum presently contains telephones dating from 1876 to the present. Visitors can see phones throughout the generations, and can pretend to be a phone operator, just like over 11,000,000 women did. There is a Braille switchboard used by the Houston Lighthouse for the Blind, a collection of teletype machines, switching gear, old wooden and metal phone booths, cables, insulators, as well as inside and outside repair equipment.

The museum also has a 1972 construction truck, a cable splicer's cart with equipment, and engineering department, and accounting department, and a research center. An expanded plant department, manhole display, safety equipment, coin pay phones, unique display of former Bell System logos, emblems, and artifacts have been added. The museum contains an exhibit of the front cover of the yellow page phone book, as well as a display of replicas of various construction trucks and specialty phones.

There is no charge to visit the museum, but as a non-profit organization, contributions are accepted. Visitors are never solicited before, during, or after the tours. The museum is operated by AT&T Pioneers.

Tuesday morning tours have an added bonus! These tours include a tour of the Talking Book Repair Shop where tape players are repaired for people with impaired vision. Visitors learn how to subscribe to the Library of Congress-sponsored program in order to receive books and magazines on tape. Visitors also receive a tour of the Eyeglass Repair Bank, and are able to see how old eyeglasses are repaired before being given away to needy children and adults throughout the world.

Each piece of equipment is clearly identified and trained docents are available to answer questions as you take your tour.

Contact information:
1714 Ashland Ave.
Houston, TX 77008
Phone: 713-861-9784
Fax: 713-863-4829
Email: ashlandpioneers@sbcglobal.net
www.houstontelephonemuseum.com



Pioneer Project Updates

Reminder: [TelecomPioneers Awards applications and grant applications are due October 15, 2008!](#)

All award/grant guidelines and applications can be found at the TCP website:

<http://www.telecompioneers.org/awards/awardslist.aspx>

2008 Power Up To Read leads

Back in May, Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator for TelecomPioneers, and the Georgia Pioneers attended the International Reading Association (IRA) conference in Atlanta, GA and hosted a booth. At this convention, 454 leads were gathered as potential users of PUTR. The leads were broken up by state and sent to their respective state leaders to distribute for follow-ups.

If you have not been able to follow-up with the distributed leads, please let TCP know what we can do to support you. Also, please let us know if you are interested in obtaining leads gathered for PUTR.

NOW ANNOUNCING...

TelecomPioneers has started a *Power Up To Read* blog for Pioneers. This is a forum where you can ask questions, find support, and exchange information with other Pioneers about implementation and strategies, as well as support each other.

The blog can be found at <http://www.putrblog.blogspot.com/>

Highlight Your Chapter, Club, or Council!

TelecomPioneers always welcomes articles for the *Projects & Programs Periodical*. This is a great opportunity to share your amazing projects with other Pioneers! Please submit all articles to be considered for the September issue no later than [August 29, 2008](#).

Newsletter Contest Results

How it works: There will be a clue for a "code word" or "code phrase" under the **Pioneer Updates** section of the *Pioneer Projects & Programs Periodical*; the word or phrase answer to the clue can be found in an article in the newsletter. After you find the answer, just click on the link to enter your answer by the last day of the month. Correct answers are eligible for the monthly drawing for a \$25 gift card to Amazon.com.

July Newsletter Contest Clue:

List two ways to broaden the use of PUTR books in the community.

July Newsletter Contest Answer:

Pioneers can purchase the books to insert into student backpacks, as holiday stocking fillers, and to be included with supplies donated to community shelters. The books can also be donated to schools or public libraries, children's wards in hospitals, after-school programs; anywhere there might be a need for books.

July Newsletter Contest Winner:

Congratulations to Cathy Kelley, AT&T Alabama Chapter! Please look for this month's clue under the Pioneer Updates section to enter the contest!

Pioneer Updates

Newsletter Distribution

If you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list to receive the *Programs & Projects Periodical* directly, please e-mail a request to:

Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator
bwyman@telecompioneers.org

Spotlight Your Chapter/Club/Council!

We would like to thank all our Pioneers for their contributions and their efforts to better their communities! We appreciate all of our Pioneers' dedication and passion for the Pioneer mission. TCP wants to hear your stories about Pioneers and all they do! If you would like your chapter (or a fellow Pioneer) to be highlighted in an issue of the *Pioneer Projects & Programs Periodical*, please e-mail us and tell us why your chapter (or your Pioneer nominee) should be in the spotlight!

Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator
bwyman@telecompioneers.org

August Newsletter Contest Clue:

How did Baldy Tait earn the nickname "Mr. Pioneer"?

Submit your answer by August 25th 11:30 pm (Pacific Standard Time):

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rIH_2bilWw4_2blvu6WVONFt2A_3d_3d



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Resources

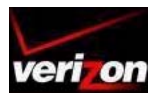
Who do I contact if I need IT support?

Contact TCP's helpdesk by going to
www.telecompioneers.helpdeskconnect.com



<http://www.attpioneervolunteers.org/>

General contact address for AT&T Pioneers:
 130 E. Travis, Suite 350
 San Antonio, TX 78205



<http://www.verizonpioneers.org/>



<http://www.qwestpioneers.org/>



<http://newoutlookpioneers.org/>



Aliant Volunteers <http://aliantpioneers.com/>



<http://www.sasktelpioneers.com/>

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