

## New Brand Sparks New More Interactive Website

Following the launch of our new Pioneers brand earlier this year, Pioneers Headquarters began developing the technology to help make learning about our mission, joining Pioneers, and finding volunteer opportunities more dynamic and inspiring. Our new Pioneers website, [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org), was launched this summer.

The new website better supports the organization's mission. It features an enhanced ability to search for local volunteer opportunities through the Pioneers Alliance Linkage System (PALS).

Pioneers Essentials, our new online store, offers Pioneers branded merchandise like T-shirts and caps, as well as materials to support your Pioneers projects and membership recruitment.

Our new site has been designed to be functional, intuitive and easy-to-use.

In our Member Center, Pioneers unit leaders will find the tools and resources they need to conduct Pioneers business easily and efficiently. Members can access their member benefits, read the PioneersPress online, and easily search P4, the Pioneers Projects and Programs Periodical, to find innovative ideas. Non-Member visitors can discover who we are and learn about what we do. Anyone who visits can make a secure donation online to support our work.

The launch of our new site using our new ?spark? brand, provides enhanced tools and opportunities for current members and improves our ability to recruit new Pioneers to help us carry on our legacy.

Visit [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org) today!

## calendar

- Sept. 11** 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance
- Oct. 11** Kings Dominion 30th Pioneers Anniversary, call 800-423-3422 or email [sissygirlcarol1@aol.com](mailto:sissygirlcarol1@aol.com) for tickets
- Oct. 15** Application Deadline for Pioneers Awards and Grants
- Oct 19-25** Kids Care Week
- Oct 25** Make a Difference Day

For upcoming chapter events please visit [www.verizonpioneers.org](http://www.verizonpioneers.org) or go to the international website at [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org) and visit the Member Center to find out about all the exciting Pioneering projects and activities going on in your local area and across the United States and Canada.

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## contact us

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*To change a mailing address, notify us of a deceased member, or if you have a question about Pioneers member benefits, please call the Pioneers Resource Center at 800-976-1914 or email us at [info@pioneersvolunteer.org](mailto:info@pioneersvolunteer.org)*

# letter from the chairman

Dear Fellow Pioneer,

Our new brand is an important part of attracting future Pioneers to carry forward our important legacy. At the heart of our new 'spark' logo is the Pioneers triangle. It signifies that while our look has evolved and changed, the traditional values on which we were founded are at the core of everything we do.

We remain an organization rooted in legacy, focused on future growth, united in our reason for being, making a real difference through our grassroots volunteerism. And stories of Pioneers exemplifying these values and commitment abound.

- A soldier overseas receives a care package lovingly prepared by a Pioneer. That soldier is reminded in a time when it means the most, that he is not forgotten by those who miss and appreciate him at home.

- A family devastated by natural disaster is given the essentials needed to recover by their local Pioneers chapter.

- A young child struggles to build the skills she needs to succeed. A Pioneer reaches out to tutor her and ensure her future success.

Thank you long-standing and new Pioneers for your dedication to building the Pioneers' legacy through your commitment of time and talents. Your volunteer efforts and participation in the Pioneers organization truly change the world.

As a Pioneer you play a part in creating positive change in a time in history when it is needed the most. Because of your compassion and hard work we will continue to take on new challenges and positively impact the growing needs of our hometowns.

I thank and honor you for all you have done and all you will do for others in the name of Pioneering.

Sincerely,



David Nichols  
Chairman, Pioneers



## membership matters

### Member Benefits That Benefit You & Our Mission!

As a Pioneer, you work hard to improve the lives of those in your community and the world. You are quick to respond when there is a call for help and always spread a message of hope and optimism.

To recognize that what you do does make a difference, we have carefully chosen select benefit partners that provide the best discounts and value to our members. By taking advantage of these benefits, you not only receive the recognition you deserve, but you help contribute to the Pioneers mission. Seventy percent of the monies received from the use of these benefits are distributed back out to your local Pioneers group.

Member Benefits include:

- Pioneers Home Financing Program from Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, 1-866-262-1505
- Pioneers Banking Center savings and deposit products from Waterfield Financial Services, Inc., 1-866-674-5755
- Auto & home insurance from Liberty Mutual, 1-800-357-2305
- Long term care insurance through LTCR, 1-800-616-8759
- Health screenings provided by Life Line Screening, 1-800-690-7485
- The Pioneers Visa® Platinum Card issued by U.S. Bank, 1-800-853-5576 ext. 9080

For more information on these and other available member benefits, visit the Member Benefits Center at [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org).

# fundraising update

## Invest in the Future of Pioneering

Your support makes it possible for us to continue our good work. When you donate to the Pioneers, you support the work of our more than 620,000 volunteers who share their time to make our world a better place.

We promise that your hard-earned dollars will be put to work changing the lives of others. In fact, when you support fundraising campaigns like our annual Pioneers Calendar, 70% of the net proceeds are distributed back to our Pioneers chapters.

There are lots of ways to support the Pioneers! Become a part of our President's Circle by making a gift of \$100 or more. President's Circle donors show their commitment to the future of Pioneering through their exceptional generosity. Pioneers President, Marty Lee, recognizes Circle supporters with specialized communications throughout the year.

Pioneer Champions, our automatic giving program provides Pioneers, their friends and family, and the public with an opportunity to support and sustain their local Pioneers by making regular monthly or quarterly gifts. Recurring donations are made automatically by credit card or electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a bank account.

The Pioneers' Special Occasion Giving program enables you to make a financial contribution even more meaningful through commemorative and memorial gifts.

Our newly designed website --- [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org) --- provides a safe, secure way to support the Pioneers anytime. Your gift truly helps us grow. The stronger we become, the stronger the communities we serve will be!



## Pioneering Opportunities for Future Growth

A study of existing and prospective Pioneers led by an independent research firm found that Pioneers today are particularly interested in "one-shot deals" for volunteering. Their ideal volunteer project would take place on the weekend and allow family members and friends to participate, too. Helping others and feeling like they are part of a community is important to today's volunteers as well.

Pioneers Headquarters listened to what members and prospective members had to say and a series of pilot projects that meet these criteria will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2009 to help us grow our ranks. Participating chapters will spark change in their communities through programs that provide books for children in need, support soldiers and their families, use Wii bowl-a-thons to recruit new members, and promote community clean-ups and environmental awareness. Not all projects are new, but the way they're being implemented will help ensure that loyal volunteers are engaged, new members are recruited, and the corporate social responsibility objectives of our sponsor companies are met.

Our goal is organizational growth! Visit [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org) for updates and more information on pilot projects.

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Want to receive email updates about  
Pioneers news and benefits?  
Simply register your email address at our  
website at [www.pioneersvolunteer.org](http://www.pioneersvolunteer.org).

# pioneers leadership insight

Dear Verizon Pioneer,

Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic - the three Rs!!!

If it was only that simple! In some ways it seems that education has not changed in the last 100 years, but in others, it is so different many of us would have a hard time doing our homework if we were students today. There are still desks, teachers, libraries, gyms, strange haircuts, bullying and the awe of learning something new and exciting. But there are also smartboards, computers, and access to the internet, online curriculum, social networking and everything electronic.

Pioneers educational activities must address the whole spectrum of educational needs. These needs range from the old standbys like tutoring and donating books and dictionaries; to providing access to and information about online resources like Power Up To Read, Project Connect and of course Verizon Foundation's Thinkfinity - in order to stay relevant.

I hope each and every Verizon Pioneer will support an educational project this fall.

Yours in Pioneering,



Steve Kohn  
Vice President, Verizon/Frontier/FairPoint/Telcordia Pioneers

## Verizon Employees & Pioneers Assist Schools

Hundreds of Verizon volunteers including 166 Pioneers across the country have collected more than \$500,000 worth of back-to-school supplies to assist schools and nonprofit organizations.

Verizon employees participated in a three-week Tools for School campaign to collect new and gently used rulers, crayons, backpacks, and other items children need to start the school year.

In all, employees and Pioneers, at more than 520 Verizon locations took part in the drive. All items will be distributed to more than 400 schools and nonprofit organizations in the local communities where the items were collected, with a specific focus on Title 1 schools or schools with a large population of students from low-income families.

"Verizon has a long history of supporting education," said Verizon Foundation President Patrick Gaston. "Whether its by providing free interactive educational resources for parents and teachers through Verizon Thinkfinity.org or by volunteering to assist an afterschool program, Verizon will continue support efforts to provide the tools children need to succeed in the classroom."

For more information, please visit [www.verizonfoundation.org/toolsforschool](http://www.verizonfoundation.org/toolsforschool).

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# How We Spark Change!

Pioneers is a network of volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in local communities, in partnership with their sponsors.