

Pioneers' Volunteerism Lifts Communities Throughout Continent

By responding to the needs of their communities, Pioneers across North America are touching the lives of neighbors and those in need, in ways both big and small. At the most recent Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Pioneers Chairman Jim Schmit made a point of honoring some notable examples of volunteer activity.

In Washington state, Qwest Pioneers sponsored a fair and rodeo that gave dozens of special children an unforgettable experience in barrel racing, steer roping, goat ribbon relays and stick horse racing.

In Florida, a cleanup corps organized by our AT&T Pioneers Tampa Mixed Club of Florida has restored a once-pristine section of Tampa Bay to its former beauty.

In New Jersey and Pennsylvania, New Outlook Pioneers continue to repair the Talking Book machines that give hundreds of thousands of blind people access to the written word and are paving the way to a new digital Talking Book technology.

In upstate New York, Verizons' Excelsior Pioneers created new disability

accommodations that allowed a summer camp for special-needs children to stay open.

In Canada, all Canadian Chapters received a Project Excellence Education award for reclaiming, refurbishing and repairing used business computers for Canadian schools, libraries, and other nonprofit educational organizations. This partnership between Pioneers and Industry Canada recently hit a one million donation milestone!

These are just a few of the ways in which Pioneers are making a difference in their communities.

Pioneers logged 5 million more hours in 2009 in VolunteerNow!, our online volunteer tool, than the previous year, and that continued spirit of giving puts us in good stead as we prepare for a new century of service.

To find Pioneers projects in your local communities, contact your local chapter or visit VolunteerNow! at <https://pals.pioneersvolunteer.org/VM/index.aspx>.

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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

calendar

June 20 Inspire a future Pioneer by volunteering as a family this Father's Day.

July Shine as a Pioneer by calling your local chapter to volunteer this summer.

For upcoming chapter events please visit www.pioneersvolunteer.org or go to the international website at www.pioneersvolunteer.org and visit VolunteerNow! to find out about all the exciting Pioneering projects and activities going on in your local area and across the United States and Canada.

letter from the chairman

Dear Fellow Pioneer,

Without you, we simply wouldn't be where we are today - on the verge of our 100th anniversary.

Our fellowship has created powerful and positive changes in the communities where we live. You can read about some of the ways Pioneers are making a difference in the front page article of this issue which highlights Pioneers projects that received special recognition at the Pioneers Annual Meeting.

The telecommunications industry has made an everlasting impact on the lives of people. It continues to make an impact as it grows and changes every day. The same is true of Pioneering. You and your fellow Pioneers accomplish great things because of your commitment to making life better for the people of your community. That's a fact you should take great pride in. Just think of how many hearts we've touched through the years and how much our own lives have been enriched in the process. See the Membership Matters column on this page to read notes of thanks from those impacted by Pioneers.

Your dedication is the reason Pioneers is in a perfect position to champion ongoing change and continue to make the world a better place for the next 100 years and beyond. The Pioneers Centennial Rewards and Recognition Program delivers special rewards for the important role you play in helping us reach this important milestone (see details in the Fundraising Update on page 3).

Pioneers unit leadership met in Atlanta, GA in February for the 2010 Pioneers' Annual Meeting to train on Centennial opportunities for participation to bring back to chapters, clubs, and councils in local communities like yours.

We are well on our way towards heralding in our Centennial. I look forward to celebrating with you!

Yours in Pioneering,



Jim Schmit
Chairman, Pioneers



membership matters

Membership Does Matter! Thank you from recipients ...

Membership in the Pioneers truly does matter as is evident in these thank you notes from the following recipients of comfort kits through a Pioneers Military Mission - Sparking Support for Soldiers and their Families project undertaken at the 2010 Pioneers Annual Meeting.

I just received your package today from Pioneers. Many members of my unit today received gifts from Pioneers also, and we are very grateful for the thoughts, prayers and comforts from the great people back home like yourself. David P. Dunlap, TSgt USAF 451st EAES, Kandahar AB, Afghanistan

I just received a Pioneers package. Thank you very much. It truly means a lot to know that we have so much support from caring people, not just from our loving families, pushing for us back home. No matter how long we have to stay away from our families to go do the things we do or go to the places that we go, your appreciation makes it all more than worth it. Neal, Michael J. SrA, USAF, Facility Management, 332 EMDSS Joint Base Balad, Iraq

On behalf of the soldiers Black Lions 1-28 First Infantry Unit Ministry Team, thank you for your kindness and support. Generous people like you are a tremendous blessing to us and we pray that God richly blesses you and all those around you. Chaplain (CPT) Michael Kim.

fundraising update

Rewarding and Recognizing Pioneers

The Centennial Rewards and Recognition Program is all about appreciating Pioneers.

The cumulative giving of Pioneers that opt to join a Centennial Circle of supporters will result in special commemorative rewards like Centennial inspired attire, anniversary mementos, and the opportunity to attend the Centennial Gala in Boston. This commitment, from the Bronze Circle to the Chairman's Centennial Circle, can be made cumulatively over the next two years. Centennial Circle supporter levels begin at \$240 that's just \$10 a month! Many Pioneers have discovered that their financial contributions can be even more meaningful when they make them in the name of a friend, fellow Pioneer, family member or loved one. Commemorative gifts are a great way to honor someone special or to celebrate any occasion - an anniversary, birthday, wedding, veterans holiday, graduation, or any special event. A Memorial gift is a beautiful testimony to the meaningful life of a departed loved one, friend or colleague. The Centennial offers a special opportunity to make a commemorative gift even more thoughtful. Every gift counts.

Equally important as having the financial resources required to respond when Pioneers are needed, are Pioneers actively carrying out our mission. Receive special recognition when you volunteer. By entering the hours you volunteer as a Pioneer into VolunteerNow! at <https://pals.pioneersvolunteer.org/VM/> you'll receive Centennial commemorative items and special recognition in Pioneers' publications like the PioneersPress and our Pioneers Projects & Programs Periodical.

Your dedication is the reason Pioneers is in a perfect position to champion ongoing change and continue to make the world a better place for the next 100 years and beyond. Be proud of your accomplishments and let's prepare to spark Pioneers for a new century of service!



Sparking Excellence!

Pioneers serve the unique needs of our hometowns. Examples of this impact abound and many were recognized at the Sparking Excellence organizations some 100,000 annually the program has become a source of national pride and a model for other nations to follow. Awards Ceremony at the 2010 Pioneers Annual Meeting. Highlights included:

An Individual Excellence Life Member Award to Verizon Pioneer Deborah Foley for driving projects like arranging for elementary schools to follow a Mt. Everest expedition via satellite phone and the Internet and driving the distribution of more than 10,000 dictionaries and thesauruses to school children.

An Individual Excellence Regular Member award to AT&T Pioneer Stephanie Washington for her instrumental work in generating support for graffiti wipe-outs to bring back neighborhood pride.

Qwest Pioneers Oregon Chapter, Pacific View Combined Club, Washington and Southern Arizona Chapters took home a Project Excellence Health and Human Services award for doubling their effort to collect food to help offset the shortfall their local food banks are experiencing.

New Outlook Pioneers Atlanta Coast Chapter Virginia received a Vice Presidents Award for helping preserve the history of Petersburg National Battlefield Park.

Canadian Pioneers - Bell Aliant, SaskTel, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta & Maple Leaf Chapters received a Project Excellence Education award for Computers for Schools which reclaims, refurbishes and returns more than 100,00 used business computers for Canadian schools, and libraries annually.

Want to receive Pioneers' information,
news and Centennial updates by email?
Register your email address at
www.pioneersvolunteer.org

pioneers leadership insight

Dear Fellow Pioneer,

What impact does Pioneering have in our local communities and hometowns and in our personal lives?

Our sponsor companies know that through our volunteerism as Pioneers we impact lives. Quantifying this impact can be challenging. Some of our volunteer projects result in immediate change or impact while the impact of other Pioneers' initiatives may be felt further into the future or by generations to come. We do know Pioneers selflessly give millions of hours of personal time each and every year answering the call of those in need. As we approach our Centennial anniversary and look collectively at our many years of volunteerism, we can be sure we have had and will continue have impact through our long legacy.

The other impact is the impact felt by you as a Pioneer. Pioneers' members broaden interpersonal and leadership skills by working as part of a team, understanding and motivating others and dealing with challenging situations. Through Pioneering, our members hone their communication and organization skills. Most of all, being part of a caring community that makes a difference in the lives of those in need just feels good!

Through Pioneering everyone impacted truly feels the benefits volunteerism can bring.

I thank you for choosing to have impact as a Pioneer!

Yours in Pioneering,



Marty Lee
President, Pioneers

Annual Meeting Sparks Pioneers for a New Century of Service

More than 500 Pioneers unit leaders were in attendance at the 83rd Annual Meeting of Pioneers, *Sparking Pioneers for a New Century of Service*, at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, GA, February 26 and 27, 2010.

At the meeting Welcome Session and Appreciation Breakfast, Immediate Past Chairman Dave Nichols welcomed incoming Chairman, Jim Schmit. The breakfast also included a special video message from CEO of Points of Light Institute and Co-Founder of HandsOn Network, Michelle Nunn.

Attendees then participated in an on-site community service project, Pioneers Military Mission: *Sparking Support for Soldiers and their Families* and packed 500 comfort kits for soldiers!

The day concluded with the Sparking Excellence Awards Ceremony. There was special recognition for Talking Book Repairs from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation for Pioneers' 50th year of volunteering in support of this program in partnership with the Library of Congress and National Library Service.

Attendees participated in an all day training focused on preparing for the Centennial titled *It Only Takes a Spark Centennial Readiness Training Camp*. The day's training included a motivational speech by Jerry Wilson, Global Chief Customer and Commercial Office for the Coca Cola Company and an overview of Pioneers Centennial goals and objectives. Pioneers leadership learned about options for participating in the Centennial through panel discussions and small group breakouts.

The training concluded with a symbolic torch lighting ceremony and attendees were asked to carry the spark back to their Pioneers units!

How We Spark Change!

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