

Mark Twain Rural Telephone
Company

Mark Twain Communications
Company

June 2010

Mark Twain News

Phone: 660-423-5211

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Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company Gives Back to the Community

Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company recently presented a check for \$50,000 to members of the Knox County Community Center Board. Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company is the Community Center's largest in hand donation to date. They were the first donors to receive Diamond Donor status.

"We wanted to get behind this project to show our support and commitment to Knox County. We think this Community Center will be an asset to the entire region and used by many of our subscribers and employees", said Mark Twain's General Manager Bill Rohde. Mark Twain provides telephone, long distance, internet and data access services to over 5,000 subscribers in and around Knox County. Mark Twain is a Community Based Telecom Provider and owned by the members it serves.

"This donation tipped us over the halfway point with cash and pledged contributions. Our community is starting to come together to support this project and the Board of Directors is excited to say the generous contributions and pledges have put us ahead of schedule," stated Board President Lindsay Leckbee.

In order to keep the community updated on their fundraising progress soon there will be a new sign at the Knox County Community Center's future building site. "We still have a long way to go and hope the community will continue to support us in our effort," stated board Treasurer Annie Fisher. This sign will incorporate a thermometer so that everyone can see the progress they are making. The quicker the temperature rises, the closer the Community Center is to breaking ground.

There are still tax credits available. If you are a



Knox County Community Center Board Members
Lindsey Leckbee, Gary Waite, Annie Fisher, Ken Berry,
Bill Rohde (Mark Twain's General Manager), Jeanie
Bailey and Larry Clark.

business or eligible donor wanting to contribute in exchange for tax credits, contact any member of the Knox County Community Center Board, or call 660-216-1235. If you are an individual wanting to offer financial support for this project, you can send your donation to Knox County Community Center, 217 N. 1st St., Edina, MO, 63537.

The Knox County Community Center Board is also planning several upcoming fundraisers and is hoping for a large amount of community support. For all those Facebook users out there, "Become a Fan of the Knox County Community Center", and they will keep you updated on future events and progress.

Certain project costs have been underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program.

We Are Your Community Based Telecom Provider

Winners of the 2010 Washington D.C. Youth Tour



Congratulations to the winners of a trip to Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Foundation for Rural Service and Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company. This

year's winners are Kaley Sutton and Megan Behring.

Kaley Sutton is the daughter of Kenny and Chris Sutton and they reside near Baring, Missouri. Kaley is a junior at Knox County High School.

Megan Behring is also a junior and attends Marion County High School. Her parents are Gale & Richelle Behring and they live near Philadelphia, Missouri.

The tour is Saturday, June 5th through Wednesday, June 9th, 2010. The two winners will gain a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry and government process while spending four days visiting famous historical sites including the Washington Monument, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Smithsonian Museums, the National Cathedral, the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, The Korean, Vietnam and new World War II Memorials and Mount Vernon.

Employee Spotlight— Brian Mesmer



Josh and Brian Mesmer with Josh's spring turkey.

Brian Mesmer began working for Mark Twain in October of 1997 and is currently the Network Supervisor. His job duties include fiber transport, switching, internet, all central office equipment and functions, broadband loop carrier cabinets and fiber splicing. Brian and his wife Staci live near Bethel, MO, with their two children, Josh and Alexa. In his spare time, Brian enjoys hunting, golfing and attending his son's sporting events.

Assistance is Available for Low-Income and Disabled Customers

Eligible low-income households, or those with disabled subscribers, can receive financial help with the cost of phone installation and basic local phone service. A federal program provides up to a \$13.50 monthly discount off the cost of basic local phone service. Also, members may receive a reduction in charges for installing telephone service. The discounts may vary depending on each customer's eligibility and applies only to a single telephone line at the qualifying customer's principal residence. The Low-Income Lifeline assistance program discounts are available to telephone subscribers who participate in one of the following programs: MO HealthNet (f/k/a Medicaid); Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public

Housing Assistance or Section 8; Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP); National School Lunch Program; or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

To qualify for Disabled Lifeline, a customer must participate in one of the following programs: Veterans' Administration Disability Benefits; State Blind Pension; State Aid to Blind Persons; State Supplemental Disability Assistance Payments Administered by the Family Support Division; Federal Social Security Disability; or State Supplemental Security Income.

For more details, or to apply, qualified applicants should contact the business office at 660-423-5211 for an application.