

The CONNECTION

A Kingdom Telephone Company Publication

June 2009

Advocating for Rural Telecommunications in Washington, D.C.

Representatives from Kingdom met with Congressman Blaine Leutkemeyer on March 24, 2009 to discuss how small communications providers like Kingdom are working to bring affordable, cutting-edge communications services to consumers in central Missouri. Tom Young, General Manager; and Paula Barnett, Administrative Assistant; joined board members Glen Horstman and Butch Richards in Washington to participate in the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's Legislative & Policy Conference, March 22-24.

During the annual event more than 600 rural telecom representatives from throughout the country gather in the nation's capitol for educational briefings about emerging rules, regulations and other industry issues. They also take part in visits to policymakers on Capitol Hill and the FCC.

This is one of the most important events we attend. So much of our ability to provide our services at affordable rates depends on policies that come out of Washington. To be able to meet with the policymakers face-to-face is an opportunity that has no equal.

The group touched on challenges small providers face in bringing affordable advanced communications, including access to video content, to rural America, with a focus on the importance of securing adequate financing for future network building and maintenance. Among the other issues discussed were the newly established broadband funding programs created by the economic stimulus bill recently signed into law 4553.

Kingdom representatives pointed out many examples of how our broadband services have enhanced the lives of many residents in our exchanges. In addition, they explained how the federal Universal Service Fund helps support their efforts to deliver consumers next-generation communications technologies at affordable rates. They urged Congressman Leutkemeyer to act to ensure rural communities like those in the Kingdom service area remain a vital part of our nation's fabric by advocating policies that will sustain universal service support.



Paying It Forward with Community Grants



(l) Cheryl Morris, Auxvasse Creative Arts Program; Dana Myers, CSR

What do art, wiring, kitchen cabinets and fence posts have in common? It's all a part of the Community Grant program, which entered its second year during the first quarter of 2009. At its April board meeting, Kingdom directors chose four more community organizations with projects in need of some funding.

The Auxvasse Creative Arts Program received a grant of \$500 to assist with the annual Ashley

Garrett Memorial Express!Fest, a free childrens art festival. At the event, kids enjoy arts and crafts, music, food, a bounce house, face painting and other activities. The Auxvasse Creative Arts Program brings visiting artists, workshops and special creative events to northern Callaway County.

The Americus Community Church & Center was awarded \$500 for kitchen cabinets to improve storage in the
(continued on page 2)