

BUSY LINE

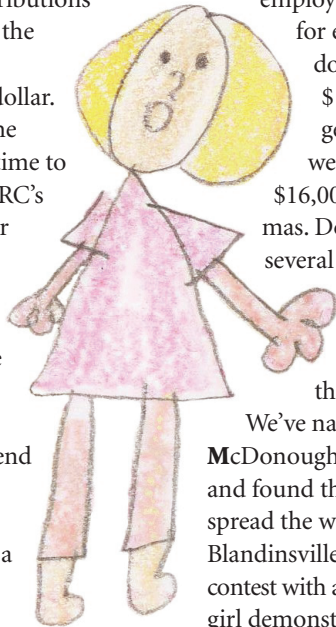
McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

Volume 33, Number 2 • February 2007 • www.mdtc.net

Meet MEG

Two years ago McDonough Telephone employees began a Goodwill Fund to benefit area agencies that help the less fortunate. We made contributions throughout the year, and the cooperative matched our contributions dollar for dollar. We distributed most of the funds around Christmastime to programs such as the WIRC's Project Santa, Presents for Foster Children, Project Linus, a project to provide gifts for the children of deployed members of the National Guard and a West Prairie High School Science Club project to send care packages to troops stationed overseas. We've also been able to help out a couple of families with special needs.

This past December, the McDonough Telephone board of directors took a marvelous step to increase our ability to touch the lives of the people in our communities. Instead of matching



employee contributions dollar for dollar, the cooperative will use the monies in the unclaimed capital credit fund to match employee donations \$10 to \$1! So – for every dollar employees donate, the co-op will donate \$10 to the fund. Due to the generosity of the board, we were able to distribute over \$16,000 in the weeks after Christmas. Donations were made to several local food banks, to the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) Domestic Violence Program and to the Salvation Army.

We've named the fund **MEG** – McDonough Employee Goodwill fund, and found the perfect "spokesperson" to spread the word. Samantha Hardy of Blandinsville entered our directory cover contest with a drawing that featured a busy girl demonstrating how our services helped her family. The little blond girl in the picture has become our Meg. Keep an eye out for Meg and for more information on the McDonough Employee Goodwill fund.

Haines Joins MDTC Team

Jennifer Haines is the newest member of the McDonough Telephone staff. She began her duties as a front office customer service representative in the Colchester office on January 2, 2007.

Jennifer, a lifelong resident of Colchester, had worked previously in the customer service department of Wal-Mart for 14 ½ years. She enjoys getting together with family and friends, motorcycle riding and spending time poolside during the summer.

"I'm very excited about the new experiences and about learning so many

different things here," Jennifer said about her job. "I'm anxious to get to know everyone better – the subscribers as well as the other employees."

We're glad to have Jennifer on board.



◀ Welcome Jennifer Haines, the newest member of the McDonough Telephone staff.

Deadline Nears for 2007 FRS Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is currently seeking applications for its 2007 college scholarship program. Twenty-five scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be awarded to rural high school seniors across the country.

McDonough Telephone partners with FRS in making the scholarship program available to high school students in our area, with the FRS awarding \$2,000 and McDonough Telephone adding another \$500 if one of our sponsored students is selected as a scholarship winner. To be sponsored by McDonough Telephone, a student must be the child of, or under the guardianship of, a McDonough Telephone Cooperative member.

Applications and guidelines have been mailed to guidance counselors at all area schools. They can also be downloaded from the FRS website at www.frs.org. Please read the requirements carefully to see if you qualify. **Completed applications must be returned to our office by February 25, 2007** so that we may complete the Sponsor Certification and forward the applications to FRS. **DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS DIRECTLY TO THE FRS!**



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

Colchester: 309-776-3211 or 888-640-4334
Lomax: 217-449-3211

Directors, Employees Recognized for Service

Three McDonough Telephone employees and three members of the board of directors achieved notable service anniversaries in 2006. Their combined terms of service totaled 85 years.

At the cooperative's Christmas dinner in December, WINS customer service representative Joyce Faxon, data processing assistant Michelle Torrance and crew

member Daryl Sidwell were recognized for 10 years of service. Larry Thompson, board member representing district 2 - Raritan/Smithshire, received a 15 year service award. Roger Barclay, district 3 - Industry, and Jim Torrance, district 7 - Good Hope, were each awarded with 20 year commendations.



◀ Roger Barclay, Larry Thompson and Jim Torrance (left to right) were recognized for their service on the board of directors.

Manager Bill Buchanan ▶ (far right) congratulates Joyce Faxon, Daryl Sidwell and Michelle Torrance (left to right) for their service to McDonough Telephone.



Use *67 to Block Caller ID

McDonough Telephone wishes to remind its members that their telephone numbers will be identified to called parties with Caller ID capabilities. You may protect your privacy and block your number from being transmitted by dialing *67 on a call-by-call basis. This service is free to all of our subscribers. All telephone numbers, whether published or non-published, will be delivered to a called party unless *67 is dialed prior to making each and every call.

Presidents' Day

On Monday, February 19, the cooperative will be closed in honor of Presidents' Day. Emergency repair calls will be handled in the normal holiday routine. Members should call 611 in the event of telephone, video or DSL service problems. If you are placing the call from a location outside of the McDonough Telephone service area or from a cellular phone, call 1-309-776-3214. Other requests or questions may be left on our voice mail.

We're Coming To YOU!

McDonough Telephone Breakfast Exchange

Beck's Snack Bar
 134 E. Market St. – Colchester
 Wednesday, Feb. 14th – 7 to 9 a.m.
 FREE Breakfast from 7 to 8 a.m.

Join us for an enjoyable visit and breakfast!

In Brief

- Effective with the January 1, 2007 bill, the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) increased from 9.1% to 9.7% of the Federal Access charge. This resulted in an increase from \$.59 to \$.63 for residential customers and from \$.84 to \$.89 for multiline business customers. The federal universal fund program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States.

- If you disconnect your DSL service temporarily while you travel or relocate to a summer or winter home, MTC now offers a short-term email only service. For a flat fee of \$10, MTC will keep your email account active so that you can continue to send and receive emails from any location with Internet access. The email only account will be kept active for a maximum of six months.

Directory Additions

- Amanda's Beauty Shop 776-5220
- Arnold, Glenn M. (Mike) 449-3437
- Baxter, Robert & Marilyn 776-4114
- Brown, Kevin 776-3106
- Cobb, D.A. 776-4695
- Collins, Melinda 449-3883
- Hickenbottom, Carroll 652-3444
- Hilton, Shannon 776-4718
- Lucas, M. 776-3042
- McConnell, James, Tim & Betty 652-3363
- Moore, Kelly 257-2506
- Phillips, Josh & Nicole 456-3577
- Sparrow, Anthony & Amanda 776-5220
- Vass, Neal D. 755-4236
- Wardell, Buffie 776-4780

Lomax Office Schedule FEBRUARY 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18		20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Feb. 15 - Bills Due • Feb. 25 - Disconnect
 Closed Feb. 19 ~ Presidents' Day