

FAMILY of COMPANIES

ROBERTS COUNTY

TELEPHONE

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

205 Main Street

PO Box 197

New Effington, SD 57255-0197

Phone: (605) 637-5211

(888) 668-0877

Fax: (605) 637-5302

E-mail: [customercare@rctca.net](mailto:customercare@rctca.net)

Website: [www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com)

RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

205 Main Street

PO Box 196

New Effington, SD 57255-0196

Phone: (605) 637-5211

(888) 668-0877

Fax: (605) 637-5302

E-mail: [customercare@rctel.net](mailto:customercare@rctel.net)

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RC TECHNOLOGIES

205 Main Street

PO Box 33

New Effington, SD 57255-0033

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Website: [www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com)

May 12, 2005

Pam Bonrud, Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
Capitol Building, 1st Floor  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED  
MAY 13 2005  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

In response to South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) Docket TC05-058, Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (RCTCA) is enclosing the following:

- a revised Lifeline/Link Up application form reflecting the additional eligibility criteria established in FCC 04-87, released April 29, 2004;
- a copy of RCTCA's promotional materials, including a brochure addressing RCTCA's tribal lands Lifeline/Link Up offering;
- a copy of RCTCA's latest Lifeline/Link Up advertisement;
- documents pertaining to RCTCA's income-based criterion certification procedures; and
- a copy of the verification letter sent to a random sample of RCTCA's Lifeline participants.

RCTCA advertises Lifeline/Link Up twice a year in four local newspapers: the Sisseton Courier; the Richland County News Monitor; the Rosholt Review; and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. In addition, RCTCA provides Lifeline/Link Up applications to local government agencies so that those agencies can, in turn, provide them to eligible consumers.

Please call with any questions regarding the enclosed Lifeline/Link Up materials or RCTCA's Lifeline/Link Up procedures.

Yours truly,

Kathie Bragg

Billing and Customer Service Manager

Enclosures

# LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PLANS

# LIFELINE & LINK-UP TELEPHONE PROGRAMS

### How Do I Apply?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided in this brochure and mail it to:

ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

OR

RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
P.O. Box 197

New Effington, SD 57255-0197

### Could I Become Ineligible?

When you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for LIFELINE or LINK-UP. You are obligated by law to notify Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association or RC Communications, Inc. and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for LIFELINE and LINK-UP.

### For More Information

If you have questions about LIFELINE or LINK-UP, the application form or your telephone service, contact Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association or RC Communications, Inc. at 605-637-5211 or 888-668-0877 for more information.

Available At:



FAMILY COMPANIES

ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

OR

RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Main Street - P.O. Box 197  
New Effington, SD 57255-0197  
Phone: 605-637-5211 888-668-0877

Fax: 605-637-5302

E-mail: [rcic@rctics.com](mailto:rcic@rctics.com)

[www.rctics.com](http://www.rctics.com)

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines)

1. I am applying for \_\_\_\_\_ LIFELINE monthly telephone service discount  
 (NOTE: Telephone Service MUST be in applicant's name)

2. I am currently participating in the following program(s): *check all that apply*

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program
- Income's at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- I agree to notify Roberts County Telephone Cooperative or RC Communications, Inc. when I no longer participate in any of the above qualifying public assistance programs
- I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet the above qualifications to receive LIFELINE and/or LINK-UP assistance on my primary residential line.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

LINK-UP telephone connection charge discount

Food Stamps \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Public Housing Assistance \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) \_\_\_\_\_

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance \_\_\_\_\_

## Low-Income Assistance Available To Subscribers

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. are authorized to provide two federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens.

- ◆ The **LIFELINE** program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.
- ◆ The **LINK-UP** program provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

## Who Is Eligible?

- ◆ Food Stamps
- ◆ Federal Housing Assistance
- ◆ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
- ◆ Medicaid
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ◆ Temporary Aid to Needy Families
- ◆ National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- ◆ Income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (must provide documentation)



## What Do The Programs Provide?

**LIFELINE** provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$8.25 each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The Credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. **LIFELINE** subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

**LINK-UP** provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of the applicable charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. **LINK-UP** also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

\* If you are living on Tribal Land, you may qualify for Enhanced **LIFELINE**/**LINK-UP** Assistance. Please call the office for more details.

## LIFELINE AND LINK-UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

(Please print and complete both sides of this application)

Name

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Address

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

Telephone Number (if existing service): ( ) ( )

area code & 7-digit number

Number where you can be reached or receive messages ( ) ( )

area code & 7-digit number

(Please turn over and complete other side)

Cut along dotted line and return application to: Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association or RC Communications, Inc.  
P.O. Box 197  
New Effington, SD 57255

## ENHANCED LINK-UP PROGRAM

Enhanced Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with a reduction up to \$100 (50% of the first \$60 and 100% of charges between \$60 and \$130) for connection and line extension charges for basic home telephone service.

Deferred payments of connection charges, without interest, may be arranged for Enhanced Link-Up subscribers.

## ENHANCED LIFELINE PROGRAM

Enhanced Lifeline support may reduce an eligible subscriber's basic local residential rate to \$1 per month.

Enhanced Lifeline subscribers may also receive long distance blocking on their telephone without charges.

*To apply, complete the application on the back of this brochure and send it to:*

**RCTCA/RCC**  
**PO Box 197**  
**New Effington, SD 57255**

## QUALIFICATIONS & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

People who are currently participating in at least one of the following programs would qualify for Enhanced Link-Up and Lifeline programs:

- **Medicaid** (e.g., Title XIX/ Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- **Food Stamps**
- **Supplemental Security Income**
- **Federal Public Housing Assistance**
- **Low Income Energy Assistance**
- **BIA General Assistance**
- **Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**
- **Head Start**
- **National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program**
- **Income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

"Tribal land" for purposes of the Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Programs includes the BIA definitions of "reservation." The term "reservation" means any federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or Colony, and Indian Allotments.

# ENHANCED LIFELINE/ LINK-UP PROGRAMS FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS LIVING ON TRIBAL LANDS

*Available At:*

**ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**  
and  
**RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**  
100 Main Street • PO Box 197  
New Effington, SD 57255-0197

**E-MAIL:**  
customer@rctca.net

**PHONE:**  
(605) 637-5211  
888-668-0877

**FAX:**  
(605) 637-5302

**[www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com)**

**ENHANCED LIFELINE AND/OR LINK-UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION  
FOR  
ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS LIVING ON TRIBAL LANDS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (P.O. Box)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Physical Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (if you have existing service): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number where you can be reached or receive messages: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):***

1. I am applying for:     **ENHANCED LIFELINE** monthly telephone service discount  
                                   **ENHANCED LINK-UP** telephone connection charge discount
2. I am an individual living on "tribal land."     Yes     No

*"An eligible resident of Tribal Lands" for purposes of the Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Programs is a qualifying low-income consumer living on or near a reservation. A "reservation" is defined as any federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony, and Indian Allotments. "Near reservation" is defined as those areas or communities adjacent or contiguous to reservations which have been designated by the Federal Commission of Indian Affairs (within the Department of the Interior) as locales that are appropriate for the extension of financial assistance and/or social services.*

Questions concerning this requirement should be directed to your local Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office.

3. I am currently receiving assistance benefits from at least one of the following program(s):  
(Check all that apply.)

- Medicaid (e.g., Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance Program
- Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)
- National School Lunch Program's FREE Lunch Program
- Income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (documentation is required)

I agree to notify Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association or RC Communications, Inc. when I am no longer participating in any of the above qualifying public assistance programs.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet the above qualifications to receive Enhanced Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential phone lines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Send the completed application to:  
RCTCA/RCC  
PO Box 197 • New Effington, SD 57255**

Income-based criteria will be in effect for all telephone companies that offer Lifeline beginning in June 2005. Some telephone companies may offer Lifeline discounts to individuals who qualify based on household income before that date.

Residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, or participate in one of these programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance
- Head Start (income eligible)
- Tribal TANF

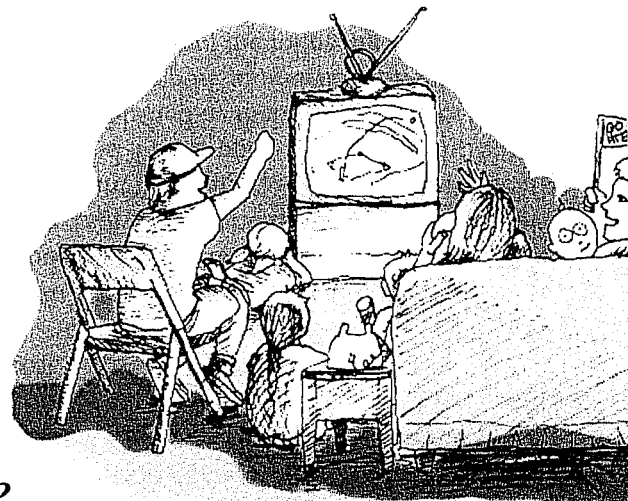
*How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up and TI support discounts?*

Consumers must apply through their local telephone company — please let us know if you are interested in any of these programs. Visit the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) web site at [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org) for more information about eligibility requirements. You also may call USAC toll free at 1-888-641-8722, with any questions about Lifeline, Link Up and TLS discounts.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR  
COMMUNITY BASED TELECOM PROVIDER

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR  
COMMUNITY BASED TELECOM PROVIDER

**Yes,**  
*You Can Afford  
Telephone Service*



Every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. This principle of "Universal Service" has been the goal of the telecommunications industry for decades. In 1934, the federal government codified the goal and reaffirmed it in 1996 by establishing policies for the "preservation and advancement of Universal Service."

To achieve the Universal Service goal, carriers have access to a fund that is generated by contributions from the telecommunications providers in the United States. Telecommunications companies draw from the fund to provide four programs that support telecommunications services nationwide. Link-Up America (Link-Up) and the Lifeline Assistance Program (Lifeline) are part of the fund's Low-Income Program and are described in detail below. Toll limitation service is another program available to low income subscribers to help them control what they spend on telephone service.

Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service.

**What type of discount is available?**

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$10 per month in discounts. Additional state support also may be available.

Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Link Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS) support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

**How do I know whether I am eligible?**

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline, Link Up and TLS support if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not provide state support, an individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch free lunch program

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:

**2004 Income Requirements — 48 Contiguous States**

Family Size	States & DC	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$12,569	\$15,701	\$14,445
2	\$16,862	\$21,074	\$19,386
3	\$21,155	\$26,447	\$24,327
4	\$25,448	\$31,820	\$29,268
5	\$29,741	\$37,193	\$34,209
6	\$34,034	\$42,566	\$39,150
7	\$38,327	\$47,939	\$44,091
8	\$42,620	\$53,312	\$49,032
<i>For each additional person add</i>	\$4,293	\$5,373	\$4,941



This brochure was produced by the Foundation for Rural Service, the philanthropic arm of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. Its mission is to promote, educate and advocate rural telecommunications in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America. For additional information on the Foundation, visit [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org). This advocacy campaign also is supported by the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative, based in Herndon, VA.

## What's Inside

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## Company Information

**RCTCA**  
205 Main Street  
PO Box 197  
New Effington, SD  
57255-0197  
rctca@rctca.net

**RCC**  
205 Main Street  
PO Box 196  
New Effington, SD  
57255-0196  
rctel@rctel.net

**FAX**  
605-637-5302

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

# Honor & Remember



## RC Honors Memory of Past Board Member

*Clarence Pederson lived a full life of 91 years*

Clarence Pederson Sr., 91, passed away on January 13, 2005, at Tekakwitha Living Center in Sisseton. Funeral services were held on Monday, January 17, at the Faith Lutheran Church in New Effington.

Clarence served on the Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association's board of directors from 1956-1971, serving some time as Secretary of the cooperative. Other community involvement included, the VFW, the American Legion Post #180, where he was a post and county commander, the Roberts County Board of Education, and council member at Faith Lutheran Church.

Clarence and his wife, Rose, purchased the Pederson family homestead near New Effington in 1948 and farmed for 25 years. After the couple retired and moved to Sisseton, Clarence worked for eight years as the Roberts County Weed Supervisor.

He served in the Army Air Corps from April 7, 1942, to November 15, 1945, when he was honorably discharged. During his 46 months of duty he served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Germany. Clarence received the Good Conduct Medal, the Bronze Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal, and five Overseas Bars.

Survivors include his wife, Rose; three children, Clarence Jr. and his wife Sandra Pederson, Robert and his wife Phyllis Pederson, Shirley and her husband Dr. Roger Carter; two sisters; a sister-in-law; and four grandchildren.

RC has sent a \$100 memorial to the South Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives Scholarship Fund in memory of Clarence.

## RC Family Welcomes New Employee

*Jason Bartels joins staff as Video and Sales Technician*

RC Family of Companies has recently added a new member to its team.

Jason Bartels is the company's Video and Sales Technician and joined the team of employees in February 2005. Jason was previously employed by NETV, and brings eight years of experience with him to RC. "I'm excited about watching RCTV grow," said Bartels. "I look forward to providing the existing customer base an awesome service!"

Jason enjoys the outdoors and keeps himself busy hunting, fishing, and camping. Jason also finds time to coach his oldest child's soccer team, and is currently attending classes to become a Hunter Safety Course Instructor.

Jason and his wife Julie reside in Bemis, SD, along with their three children and one on the way!







## Addresses Needed

RCTCA searching for people

If you know the addresses of the following people, please call the RCTCA office at 6-1-1:



- CANDACE ANDERSON
- MURRETTA ANDERSON
- ADRIAN ARCHAMBEAU
- WAYLON COOPER
- ISABELLE DEMARRIAS
- VANESSA DRIVER
- ETHAN DUMARCE
- DAVID GOEDERT
- TODD & EMILY HAGEN
- CRAIG & STACY MOWRY
- RHONDA C. NYVOLD
- BRYAN & KELLY PETERSON
- BRENT POOLEY
- JOYCE REDBEAR
- RANDY SANDERS



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Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed around the 1st of each month, and payment is due on the 15th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and wasted time for all concerned.

- Feb. 28 .....Bills mailed from RCTCA/RCC
- March 15 .....Payment due
- March 7 ...Final Notices mailed (for those with past-due accounts)
- March 14 .....Disconnect day
- March 21 .....Reminder Notices mailed

## Subscribers Receive New Phone Book

Directories mailed to customers in February

The 2005 telephone directories were mailed from RCTCA/RCC office in New Effington in February. If you did not receive a copy of the directory, please call the RC office at 6-1-1 (toll free).

Many things may affect your listing, such as moving, billing changes, disconnects at the time of publishing, and the transfer of information from RC to the printing company. While every effort is made to insure accuracy in the compiling and printing of the directory to prevent errors and omissions, they may still occur despite all precautions.

Please contact the RC office immediately if there are any

corrections that need to be made for next year's directory. Any corrections will be noted in the newsletter as soon as possible.

Need an extra Telephone Directory?

Additional copies may be picked up at the following locations:

- Claire City: CC Community Grocery
- New Effington: RCTCA
- Peever: Peever Post Office
- Summit: People's State Bank
- Veblen: First Savings Bank
- Wilmot: RCC Central Office or Wilmot State Bank



## DIRECTORY CHANGES

IN

### CLAIRE CITY EXCHANGE

No additions last month

### NEW EFFINGTON EXCHANGE

No additions last month

### PEEVER EXCHANGE

- Brown, Michelle 932-3620
- DuMarce, Eric 932-3808
- Lewis, D. 932-3809

### SUMMIT EXCHANGE

- Redlin, Tina 398-6260

### VEBLEN EXCHANGE

- Heminger, Barbara 738-2183

### WILMOT EXCHANGE

No additions last month

## RC Takes Over Management of NETV

Plans are being made to offer new and enhanced services

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and its subsidiary, RC Technologies Corporation, are pleased to announce to you that RC has taken over the management of NETV's Sisseton and Watroun wireless video systems as of Feb. 1, 2005. NETV services will continue as is for a period of time while the RCC reviews and approves the assignment of the NETV licenses to RC and the acquisition of the system is complete.

During this interim period while RC manages the systems on NETV's behalf, changes in programming will not be made. Once the acquisition is complete, RC has great plans to introduce new and enhanced services, such as high speed Internet access, more TV programming, and other future services. RC is extremely excited and pleased to be entering this new venture!



# Lifeline and Link-Up Programs

Telephone assistance available for low income citizens

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (RCTCA) and RC Communications, Inc. (RCC) are authorized to provide federal telephone assistance programs. Two such programs provided by both companies are "Lifeline" and "Link-Up." Both were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

The Lifeline program provides a \$8.25 monthly credit on the basic service portion of the participant's telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50% of the applicable charges or \$30 or whichever is less. Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

Applicants are eligible if they participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, or income is at or below (135%) of Federal Poverty Guidelines (must provide documentation).

Additional Lifeline and Link-Up support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs

(BIA) can verify whether or not a specific location meets the Enhanced Lifeline/Link-Up definition. Enhanced Lifeline/Link-Up provides for expanded eligibility opportunities and additional telephone service discounts. In addition to the previously cited programs, for those individuals residing on Tribal Lands, participation in any of the following meets the eligibility standard: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance; Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF); or Head Start Programs (under income qualifying eligibility provision only). If you are on Lifeline or Link-Up and are no longer eligible for any of these low-income programs, you are obligated by law to notify RCTCA or RCC of your ineligibility.

Contact the RCTCA/RCC office in New Effington, 605-637-5211 or 888-668-0877, for more information or application forms. You may also e-mail questions to [customer-care@rctel.net](mailto:customer-care@rctel.net).

## Looking for Youth Tour Winner

Literary contest being held to determine one lucky student

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (RCTCA) and its subsidiary RC Communications, Inc. (RCC) are sponsoring a student from their calling areas to attend the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington D.C. June 4-8.

The participating student must be a junior in high school and be within the RCTCA/RCC local telephone service areas, which include Claire City, Corona, New Effington, Peever, Summit, Veblen, and Wilmot. The student chosen to represent RCTCA/RCC will be picked through an essay contest.

Students who are interested must answer the following question in a maximum of 2 typewritten pages: "Where is Our Technology Headed in Rural South Dakota: Your Vision."

A cover page should include the following information: Title of essay, name, address, and phone number. Students are asked to send the essay by noon, Friday, April 1, 2005 to: Rachel Bartnick, Marketing and Sales Manager, RCTCA/RC Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 197, New Effington, SD 57255-0197. For additional information, call Bartnick at 637-5211 or toll free 6-1-1.



Looking for a solution to a problem . . .

**Reel in one of RC's Bundles!**

**RC'S SIMPLE SOLUTION\***

Basic Phone, Cable TV, 256k High Speed Internet PLUS, Any 5 Phone Features of your choice

**\$95.00/mo.**

**RC'S EXTREME SOLUTION\***

Basic Phone, Cable TV, 512k High Speed Internet PLUS, Any 5 Phone Features of your choice

**\$105.00/mo.**

Call 6-1-1 today!



\* Residential Only & Installation Fees May Apply



## Sweet Addaline, C.C.

Communications Counselor



*Sweet Addaline,  
I've been contemplating on which calling features I should get for my telephone. I am having trouble deciding on which ones will be best for me. The problem is I can't decide because I want everything! I want to be able to screen my calls before I answer them and to be able to answer incoming calls while I'm on the phone. I would also like to transfer my incoming calls automatically to another telephone number when I need to. Does RC offer anything that could help me out at a reasonable price?*

*Sincerely,  
Inquiring in Veblen*

help you to never miss a call again! You can be on the line or not at home and your calls will be answered by RC's Voice Mail system. Auto Recall lets you return a call to your last incoming call, even if you missed the call. Finally, 3-Way Calling allows you to add a third party to an existing telephone conversation. What an awesome package! Call RC today and sign up for the "Right Pack."

Truly,  
Sweet Addaline ♥

*(Have a question for Sweet Addaline?  
E-mail her at [sweetie@tnics.com](mailto:sweetie@tnics.com).)*

## Hi, Kids!

RC is inviting you to enter their "Basket of Goodies" Easter coloring contest! Entry forms can be found included in this month's bill.



Copies may also be downloaded from RC's website, [www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com). Deadline is March 18.

Good Luck to all participants!

Dear I.V.:

RC is always willing to help their customers Sweet-ums! I'm actually just like you. I want everything too. Thank goodness RC is here to help us all. I must say, your letter could not have come at a better time. RC has just the "Right Pack" for ya! The feature of the month of March is actually called the "Right Pack." This pack contains a bundle of features that would be perfect for you, and the good news is you won't have to pay for your first month or for activation! Sweet Petunias! What a savings. Plus after your FREE first month, you will still be saving an extra \$5 a month with this package.

By now you are wondering what is included in the "Right Pack." Let me tell ya. It includes Caller ID, Voice Mail, Telemarketer Call Screening, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, Auto Recall, and 3-Way Calling! Caller ID, Call Waiting, and Call Forwarding are three features that are perfect for you. The other features in the package would also be very beneficial, don't you know! Voice Mail will



# LEAP INTO SPRING

with the  
**"Right Pack" of features!**

*Receive FREE activation and your first month FREE  
when you sign up for the "Right Pack"*

**RIGHT PACK INCLUDES:**

- Caller ID (Name & Number)
- Voice Mail
- Telemarketer Call Screening
- Call Waiting
- Call Forwarding
- Auto Recall
- Three-Way Calling

**The  
REAL  
CHOICE**



Call today to take advantage of this offer!  
**605-637-5211 or  
Dial 6-1-1 (toll-free)**

(Offer valid through 3/31/05)

FAMILY of COMPANIES

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Page 3  
Food Drive

Page 4  
Sweet Addaline

## Company Information

**RCTCA**  
205 Main Street  
PO Box 197  
New Effington, SD  
57255-0197  
rctca@rctca.net

**RCC**  
205 Main Street  
PO Box 196  
New Effington, SD  
57255-0196  
rctel@rctel.net

**FAX**  
605-637-5302

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

Local Reach • Global Reach

## RC Communications Receives Federal \$\$'s

*Funding will assist with broadband access for Corona residents*

USDA Rural Development State Director Lynn D. Jensen recently visited Corona, SD, to present RC Communications, Inc. with an award of federal funding to assist with broadband access.

Jensen said, "Under President Bush's priority for Broadband access to Rural America these funds will assist with the advancement in technologies that are necessary to foster economic growth and provide quality education opportunities. These funds will bring high-speed Internet access and cable television to the 112 people living in Corona."



*Pictured (left to right) are: Lynn Jensen, State Director of the USDA Rural Development; Pam Harrington, General Manager of RC; Tim Settje, Mayor of Corona; and Donald Schultz, City Counsel.*

USDA Rural Development Community Connect grant funds in the amount of \$544,099 will be used for this project. The project will help Corona's residents develop new job skills, increase educational opportunities afforded to students, and provide expanded access to goods and services available over the Internet for the entire community. The project includes construction of a community center, to house publicly available computers and fiber to premises (FTTP) in Corona. Corona's leaders believe the broadband access, a new "every day" essential for thriving communities will help them to stem out-migration and stimulate economic growth.

"We are so pleased that our grant request was approved," said Pam Harrington, General Manager of RC Communications. "If all goes according to plan, high-speed Internet and cable services will be available to the citizens of Corona by year's end. The new community center will be completed next spring."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



## Help With Shopping

Check out RC for gift solutions

Having trouble deciding what to buy for Christmas gifts this year? Just call 611 or stop by RC Family of Companies and check out these great gift ideas. RC is here to make your holiday shopping easier! Wrapping and shipping is available!

**1. XM Satellite Radio:** Do you have a music devotee, sports fanatic or news hound in your family? If so, XM Satellite Radio, offering over 120 digital channels, is the perfect gift!

**2. Internet Service:** RC offers both dial-up and high speed Internet service. Enjoyment for the entire family, for business use, homework help or entertainment and fun. It's a great gift idea for your student or spouse!

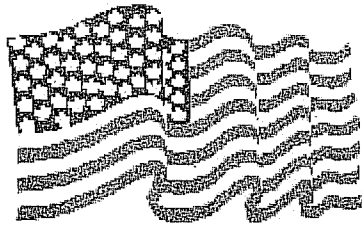
**3. Telephones:** Give your loved one a telephone from RC. Choose from a wide variety, from Caller I.D. phones to photo display phones for easy dialing.

**4. Unicef Service:** Inquire about analog & digital service, wireless phones and accessories!

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Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed around the 1st of each month, and payment is due on the 15th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and wasted time for all concerned.

**Nov. 30** .....Bills mailed from RCTCA/RCC  
**Dec. 15** .....Payment due  
**Dec. 6** .....Final Notices mailed (for those with past-due accounts)  
**Dec. 13** .....Disconnect day  
**Dec. 22** .....Reminder Notices mailed



### Sincere Apologies

RC would like to recognize the following soldiers currently serving our country from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion out of Sisseton: Brandon Frerichs and Lucas Waddell. These individuals were omitted from a previous recognition of soldiers.

RC sincerely apologizes for this error.

### Thank You . . . .

We want to thank you for the tickets we won to the Vikings-Tennessee Titans on Oct. 24. The Vikings were victorious 20-3 playing in front of a sellout crowd of 64,108. This was our first trip to the Dome and was a great way to help celebrate Jerry's birthday.

Thank you again,  
Jerry & Nina Borgen

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thanks for the tickets to the Vikings game. They didn't win, but it was fun just to be there.

Jerry Doschadis

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

**IN**

### CLAIRE CITY EXCHANGE

Bergeson, Craig 652-4517

### NEW EFFINGTON EXCHANGE

Schultz, Alyce 637-5560

### PEEVER EXCHANGE

Miller, Glen 932-3830

Wilson, Rhonda R. 932-3692

### SUMMIT EXCHANGE

Dummann, H. H. 398-6304

Redwing, Richard & Fena 398-6187

### VEBLEN EXCHANGE

Chelgren, Walt & Ruby 738-2180

Cox, Jackie Ann 738-2270

Mountainhead Angus Meat

Market 738-2217

Paul, David A. 738-2166

Premium Composites LLC 738-2484

### WILMOT EXCHANGE

Heilman, Sharon 938-4245

Sword, Doreen M. 938-4528

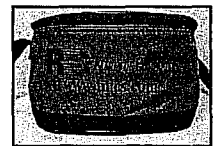
Here's a gift your whole family can enjoy everyday ~ Internet Service from RC  
**SAVE \$100 on RC HIGH SPEED DSL INSTALLATION\***



Sign up for RC High Speed DSL before Dec. 31, 2004, and installation is only \$50! And, receive a **FREE 6-pack Can Cooler!**

\*Regular Price - \$150

All New and Existing Annual Dial-Up Subscribers will also receive a 6-PACK CAN COOLER with your annual subscription!



205 Main St • New Effington, SD 57255  
605-637-5211 or 800-256-6854

[www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com)



## New Qualifications for Programs

*Lifeline and Link-Up available for low-income citizens*

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (RCTCA) and RC Communications, Inc. (RCC) are authorized to provide federal telephone assistance programs. Two such programs provided by both companies are "Lifeline" and "Link-Up." Both were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

Applicants are eligible if they participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs:

- Food Stamps
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

3 new programs now qualify:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch free lunch program

- Household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Those individuals living on Tribal Trust Lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, or participate in one of these programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance
- Head Start (income eligible)
- Tribal TANF

For more information or application forms, contact the RCTCA/RCC office in New Effington, 605-637-5211.

~ Love ~

It is truly one of the sweet mysteries of life, along with being the great gift you can give this holiday season. When you think about giving a gift this Christmas, think about having it be the gift of love.

### RC Visits Elementary Schools



Halloween is a special day for children and keeping them safe is everyone's responsibility. RC informed elementary schools of safety this year by distributing reflective Trick-or-Treat Halloween bags to the students of New Effington, Summit, Veblen and Wilmot. These orange, shiny bags are visible at night with safety tips printed on the front.

The tips include never go out alone, stay in well lit areas and have your parents check your treats.

RC hopes everyone had a fun and safe Halloween! Pictured is Destiny MacConnell, a kindergarten student in Veblen.

Fill a stocking full of JOY this Holiday Season

Receive FREE Caller ID Activation and a Caller ID Phone\*

- \* Must donate at least 2 or more non-perishable food items to qualify
- \* If you already have Caller ID, you will receive 2 months FREE

All non-perishable food items will be given to a local Food Pantry

Donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

- ~ Roberts County Telephone Office - New Effington
- ~ Ceroll Grocery - New Effington
- ~ Community Grocery Store - Claire City
- ~ Johannsen's Food Mart - Wilmot
- ~ Summit Grocery - Summit
- ~ Grobe's Grocery - Veblen

Sponsored By



Limited to one offer per household



# Sweet Addaline, C.C.

Communications Counselor



*Sweet Addaline, I just recently found out that my job is requiring me to do a lot of traveling this December and I will not be home for the holidays. I am so sad that I am going to miss out on spending time with my friends and family!*

*I have done some traveling in the past and found it was extremely inconvenient and costly to call home by credit card or collect. I know that being gone over the holidays I will be making twice as many calls and will want to talk to my family twice as long. Do you have any ideas on how I can make this happen without worrying about what it is costing me?*

*Thank you for your advice and Happy Holidays.*

*Worried in Wilmot*

~ ~ ~ ~

Dear W.W.:

Oh, Sweetums! You bet I have some ideas for ya! If you don't want the hassle of calling home by credit card or collect, just get a toll free 800 number on your home phone line. It's as low as 12 cents per minute Sweetie, can you believe that! And if ya choose RC Long Distance for your in-state and out-of-state calling, there is no monthly fee! You can easily call home to your family at any time with the convenience of your own 800 number. But wait, Sweet Petunias, I have one more idea to share with ya . . .

It's the RC Long Distance Travel card! The card that places all charges on your local telephone bill . . . now that's convenient. Sweetie, it gets even better. You don't have to worry about running out of minutes like on those



*And into your house we go, Bringing you greetings, And holiday wishes, Through the mail and snow.*

Season's Greetings from Everyone at RC Family of Companies!  
The RC offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and also Friday, Dec. 31.

pre-paid cards! You can talk to your family and friends throughout the entire holiday season.

So, Sweet Petunias, stop your worrying now and call RC! Happy Holidays to you too!

Truly,  
Sweet Addaline ♥

*(Have a question for Sweet Addaline?  
E-mail her at [sweety@trics.com](mailto:sweety@trics.com).)*

## AT&T Raises Rates

Monthly fees increase by \$1 Effective Dec. 1, 2004 the monthly fee for the One Rate 5¢ Plan will increase from \$2.95 to \$3.95, and the One Rate Plus Plan will increase from \$4.95 to \$5.95.

Call RC today to see how RC Long Distance can benefit you.

# Let the Shopping Begin!

AT



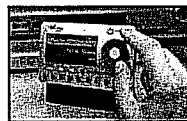
## Beyond AM. Beyond FM.™

Offering over 120 Digital Channels of Music, Sports, Talk, Children's Programming and Entertainment ~ Coast to Coast ~

*Perfect for music devotees, sports fanatics, or news hounds.*



SATELLITE RADIO



Now \$30 OFF the Original Price!!



205 Main St. • New Effington  
605-637-5211 or 800-256-6854



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## Company Information

**RCTCA**  
205 Main Street  
PO Box 197  
New Effington, SD  
57255-0197  
rctca@rctca.net

**RCC**  
205 Main Street  
PO Box 196  
New Effington, SD  
57255-0196  
rctel@rctel.net

**FAX**  
605-637-5302

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

## RC Family Welcomes New Employee

*Rachel Bartnick joins staff as Marketing and Sales Manager*

RC Family of Companies has recently added a new member to its team.

Rachel Bartnick is the company's new Marketing and Sales Manager and joined the team of employees in August 2004. Rachel graduated from Sisseton High School in 1997 and from South Dakota State University with an Economics degree in 2001. Following graduation, Rachel was employed in the marketing department of Red River Commodities, Inc. in Fargo, ND.

"I'm looking forward to learning about the telecommunications industry and working with such a great group of employees," said Bartnick. "I'm excited to be back in my hometown area."

Rachel and her husband Michael, also a graduate from Sisseton High School, are presently residing in Rosholt, SD.



## Thanks for 18 Wonderful Years

*Margaret Eggers retires after serving RC Family for almost two decades*

After 18 years of working with the RC Family, Margaret Eggers has announced her retirement. "I've decided to become a full time farm wife again," said Eggers.

Margaret joined Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association in 1986 as a temporary Customer Service Representative filling in whenever needed. Then in 1996 she took a regular part-time position until August 31, 2004. Along with working in customer service, Margaret also enjoyed coordinating the telephone directory each year and filling in for other employees. "I will miss working with the customers and also the wonderful bunch of co-workers," said Eggers. "After 18 years RC Family of Companies became my second home."

Margaret will continue to be busy after her retirement. She plans to help her husband Al with his seed corn business and together they look forward to helping out with their two grandchildren. So, if you happen to see Margaret while she is running after those grandkids, please wish her well on the next stage of her life. Thank you Margaret for always being there when we've needed you. You will be missed!



~~~~~  
The RC Family of Companies office will be closed on  
Monday, Oct 11, for Native American Day.



## HELP WANTED

Regular part-time position in New Effington customer service department. 2-3 days per week, but will vary depending on work load. 2-year degree or equivalent experience in office/business procedures, sales helpful. Applicant must be able to utilize computer word processing programs, handle multiple incoming calls, and other office equipment. For applications, contact Kathie Bragg, RC Family of Companies, PO Box 197, New Effington, SD 57255, or call 605-637-5211 by Oct. 15, 2004.



**MEMBER**

Better Business Bureau  
of South Dakota

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

IN

#### CLAIRE CITY EXCHANGE

No additions last month

#### NEW EFFINGTON EXCHANGE

Sun Flour Railroad 637-5401

#### PEEVER EXCHANGE

Blue, Sylvia S. 932-3525  
Horn, Raquel L. 932-3770  
Keoke, Levi G. 932-3544  
Keoke, Rose M. 932-3544

#### SUMMIT EXCHANGE

Shepherd, Marva J. 398-6203  
Williams, V.L. 398-6198

#### VEBLEN EXCHANGE

No additions last month

#### WILMOT EXCHANGE

Murphy, Jim 938-4312

### IMPORTANT

Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed around the 1st of each month, and payment is due on the 15th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and wasted time for all concerned.

Sept. 30 .....Bills mailed from RCTCA/RCC  
Oct. 15 .....Payment due  
Oct. 4 .....Final Notices mailed (for those with past-due accounts)  
Oct. 12 .....Disconnect day  
Oct. 22 .....Reminder Notices mailed

## Wilmot Care Center Enjoys RCTv

*Residents are excited about the new service*

Recently RCTv cable service was installed throughout the Wilmot Care Center.

Richard Blanchard, Care Center Administrator, said that the facility wide cable is appreciated on a daily basis. "There were many residents that were without cable service, because they just couldn't afford it."

Each resident is excited about the new cable service for different reasons. Arnold likes to watch the old westerns, Ella said that she likes all the ball games and Leona likes the MN Twins, while Reuben likes to watch the fishing shows, which remind him of all the fishing that he has done. John likes to watch the History Channel, and Howard says that it's nice to have the cable at night.

Employees at the care center have also said that families have been extending

their visits and watching programming with loved ones.

RCTv is available in the towns of Peever, New Effington, Summit and Wilmot. For more information on RCTv dial 6-1-1.

### AT&T Adds New Charge

*Additional \$2.49 is added to bill*

Residential customers who have AT&T for their out-of-state (Interlata and/or International) long distance carrier will see an addition \$2.49 monthly fee in their AT&T Section on their Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association or RC Communications telephone bill on behalf of AT&T.

This \$2.49 Bill Statement Fee was effective Sept. 1, 2004. Intra-state calls are exempt from this fee as well as casually billed AT&T calls. Customers on the Lifeline Assistance, One Rate Simple Plan and the One Rate Basic Plan are exempt from this fee also.

**NO** Carrier Line Charge  
**NO** Calling Plan Charge  
**NO** Monthly Minimum Charge  
**NO** Connectivity Charge  
**NO** Billing Statement Fee  
Local Customer Service  
24 Hours a day  
ONLY 14¢/min Flat Rate

**NEED WE SAY MORE!!!**



**LONG DISTANCE**  
Call 605-637-1019  
**TODAY!!**

# Lifeline and Link-Up Programs

Telephone assistance available for low income citizens

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (RCTCA) and RC Communications, Inc. (RCC) are authorized to provide federal telephone assistance programs. Two such programs provided by both companies are "Lifeline" and "Link-Up." Both were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

The Lifeline program provides a \$8.25 monthly credit on the basic service portion of the participant's telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50% of the applicable charges or \$30 or whichever is less. Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

Applicants are eligible if they participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: Food Stamps, Federal Housing Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Medicaid, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Additional Lifeline and Link-Up support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) can verify whether or not a specific location meets the Enhanced Lifeline/Link-Up

definition. Enhanced Lifeline/Link-Up provides for expanded eligibility opportunities and additional telephone service discounts. In addition to the previously cited programs, for those individuals residing on Tribal Lands, participation in any of the following meets the eligibility standard: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) tribally-administered block grant program; Head Start Programs (under income qualifying eligibility provi-

sion only); or National School Lunch Program (free meals program only).

If you are on Lifeline or Link-Up and are no longer eligible for any of these low-income programs, you are obligated by law to notify RCTCA or RCC of your ineligibility.

Contact the RCTCA/RCC office in New Effington, 605-637-5211 or 888-668-0877, for more information or application forms. You may also e-mail questions to [customer-care@rctel.net](mailto:customer-care@rctel.net).

## XM Satellite Radio is a Hit

Customers give testimonials about their radios

Here is what people are saying about XM Satellite Radio:

• "I really love my XM Radio! I am hooked on station #13 - Hank's Place. It plays old time country." — Janet Brandenburger, Rosholt

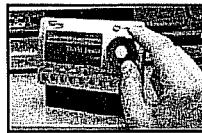
• "The thing I like about my XM Radio is that I don't have to burn CD's and go through the trouble of trying to download songs. All you have to do is flip through the channels and you have almost any song you want!" — Sam Ceroll, New Effington

• "My life has changed since I put XM Radio in. It is wonderful being able to listen to the Sunny station and have their beautiful music always in the background." — Annie Christensen, New Effington

• "Just when you think life is fine, XM Radio is invented and makes life even better. My daughter recently bought me one for my birthday. What a great gift, I am young again." — Barb Fladland, New Effington



SATELLITE  
RADIO



### Beyond AM. Beyond FM.<sup>SM</sup>

Offering over 120 Digital Channels of Music, Sports, Talk, Children's Programming and Entertainment

— Coast to Coast

*Perfect for music devotees, sports fanatics, or news hounds.*

Now \$30 OFF the Original Price!!

Check it out at:



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605-637-5211 or 800-256-6854

## Sweet Addaline, C.C.

Communications  
Counselor



*Sweet Addaline,  
I hope you are back from your tour in Africa. I have this pressing problem that I hope you can solve for me. Our family is planning a huge family reunion for next summer. I am the chairman of the reunion planning committee. Since I work outside the home, I wish there was some way everyone involved could call me at a certain time, instead of me trying to touch bases with everyone individually. It sure would be nice if there was some way to conference all of us together so we can plan. I suppose there isn't any way to do it, but I'd appreciate any advice you can give.*

*Problem in Peever*

~ ~ ~ ~

**Dear PP:**

Oh ya, I'm glad to be back home on the prairie. And ya know I certainly do have advice sweetie. The truth is RC just came up with a new service called, believe it or not, "Conferencing"! Sweet petunias! I can hardly believe it myself, but I have already used this service to conference with the Governor, and my Washington DC folks, don't ya know. What's more, I can manage the whole conference on my computer. And there's more, the service is quite affordable and will save ya a whole lot of time.

Can ya believe that this service from RC is available to anyone in the country! Oh ya . . . in fact, Gov was wondering if it would be available for use by him and his staff. Ya bet it is! It works sweeter than honey on lefse!

Sweet'ums, this is state of the art, believe me! I know ya will be more than pleased after trying out this conferencing service. Just call

by dialing 611. That sweetie pie, Sara, she'll get it going for ya!

Truly,  
Sweet Addaline ♥

*A special message from Me:*

*You may have heard that I've spent the last couple of months in central Africa, visiting different countries there. I had the opportunity to go and review the communications systems in that area of the world. Sweeties, let me tell ya, we have it so great here in our little part of the world. I've never felt so isolated as I did when I was there. Ya just can't communicate there! I think mostly from the fact that it's been so war torn for decades. Very few have phones or any means of voice communication that can be used by the general popu-*

*lace. I learned so much there, but it sure is good to be home. This experience has showed me a new perspective on how lucky and blessed we are in this country. I've already started writing a book about my African experience. It's sure to be a big seller in DC. (Those Washington folks don't know what's going on in the real world . . . but don't ya tell them I said that!)*

*Sweet petunias, that's enough rambling on about me! I just want to encourage ya to ask me questions and I will do my best to help. We may live in a very rural area of the country, but RC is doing a great job bringing ya the best in communication services.*

*(Have a question for Sweet Addaline?  
E-mail her at [sweetie@tnics.com](mailto:sweetie@tnics.com).)*

## Co-op Month Observed in October

Seven Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership - Cooperatives are voluntary organizations and operated for the benefit of its member-owners. Membership is open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2. Democratic Member Control - Cooperatives are democratically controlled by its members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation - Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative rather than the capital invested.

4. Autonomy and Independence - Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members through an elected board of directors. If they raise

capital from external sources, or enter into agreements they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information - Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute to the development of their cooperatives.

6. Concern for Community - While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by members.

7. Cooperation Among Cooperatives - Cooperatives serve their members by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

*(Taken from The International Cooperative Alliance, Manchester, England, September 1995)*

### AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

950 sq-ft 2bedrooms 1 Bath  
Vinyl Siding & Windows  
Plus more!

**\$30,000 Delivered!**  
Qualifications Apply



Call 1-800-540-4241  
for more information

Representatives are available to meet with you!

## Need more Reach

For your community event, an in-319 promotion or upcoming sale

Then you need the 2x2 Network

Get your ad in 128 South Dakota Newspapers  
**Special prices for the 2x2 network ads.**

For more information on the 2x2 Network



**Call your local newspaper**

in the South Dakota  
Newspaper Association at 1-800-668-9697

## Low income assistance available to telephone subscribers

NEW EFFINGTON Roberts "Link Up" also provides for needs the Enhanced Lifeline/Link-County Telephone Cooperative deferred payment of connection Up definition Enhanced Association (RCTCA) and RC charges without interest. It does Lifeline/Link Up provides for Communications, Inc. (RCC) are not cover the cost of wiring inside expanded eligibility opportunities authorized to provide two federal your home and is limited to one and additional telephone service telephone assistance programs time per home address per discounts. In addition to the these programs Lifeline and subscriber previously cited programs, for Link up were developed in Who is eligible? The applicant those individuals residing on Tribal response to concerns about low must participate in at least one of Lands participation in any of the income citizens being unable to the following public assistance following meets the eligibility afford telephone service. programs to be eligible, food standard Bureau of Indian Affairs The "Lifeline" program Stamps, Federal Public Housing (BIA) general assistance provides a \$8.25 credit monthly on Assistance Low Income Housing Temporary Assistance for Needy the basic service portion of their Energy Assistance Medicaid Families (EANF) tribally telephone bill. The credit applies Supplemental Security Income administered block grant program on the main home telephone line (SSI), Temporary Aid to Needy Head Start Programs (under listed in the name of the eligible Families (EANF), National School income qualifying eligibility telephone company subscriber Lunch (NSL) free lunch program, provision ority), National School "Lifeline" subscribers may also of their income is at or below Lunch Program (free meals receive blocking of long distance 135% of the Federal Poverty program only) or your income is calls on their telephone line at no Guidelines (documentation is at or below 135% of the Federal charge. Poverty Guidelines (documentation and is required).

"Link Up" provides Additional "Lifeline" and is required) subscribers with reduced "Link Up" support, available to If you are on "Lifeline" or connection charges for their basic these qualifying individuals living "Link Up" and are no longer home telephone service. This on Tribal Lands The Bureau of eligible for any of these low reductions 50% of the applicable Indian Affairs (BIA) can verify income programs, you are charges of \$30, whichever is less, whether or no a specific location obligated by law to notify RCTCA or RCC of your ineligibility.

Contact the RCTCA or RCC office in New Effington, 605-637-5211 or 888-668-0877 for more information or application forms. You may also e-mail questions to customercare@rcic.net

### A LETTER FROM SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Hey, friend, got time for a visit?

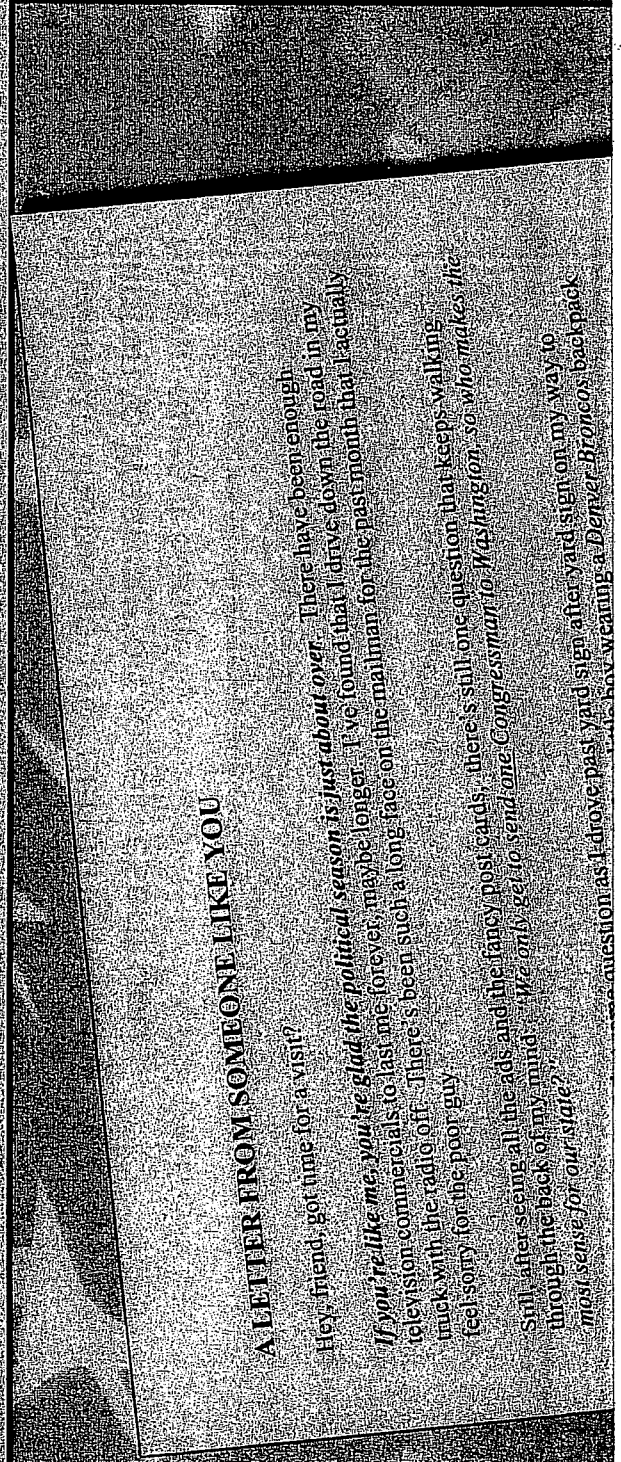
If you're like me, you're glad the political season is just about over. There have been enough television commercials to last me forever, maybe longer. I've found that I drive down the road in my truck with the radio off. There's been such a long face on the mailman for the past month that I actually feel sorry for the poor guy.

Sniff, after seeing all the ads and the fancy post cards, there's still one question that keeps walking through the back of my mind: We only get to send one Congressman to Washington, so who makes the most sense for our state?

As a question as I drove past yard sign after yard sign on my way to

## Community tree planting funds are available

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture/Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry is accepting applications for funds to be used in community tree planting projects. The division has \$50,000 local match available

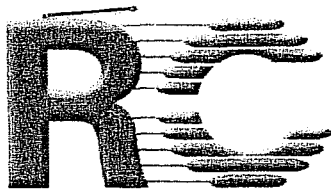


# LIFELINE/LINKUP POVERTY GUIDELINE QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

1. \_\_\_\_ Check application form.
2. \_\_\_\_ Verify customers' telephone number and address.
3. \_\_\_\_ Verify current Federal Poverty Guideline. [www.universalservice.org/li](http://www.universalservice.org/li)
4. Verify acceptable documentation: (3 consecutive months' worth when appropriate)
  - a. \_\_\_\_ paycheck stub
  - b. \_\_\_\_ current income statement from an employer
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Social Security statement of benefits
  - d. \_\_\_\_ Other official document
5. Verify if there is any other household income.
  - a. \_\_\_\_ Does spouse have income?
  - b. \_\_\_\_ Child Support?
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Other income?

**2004 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household At or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

| <b>Size of Family Unit</b>      | <b>48 Contiguous States &amp; DC</b> | <b>Alaska</b> | <b>Hawaii</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1                               | \$12,569                             | \$15,701      | \$14,445      |
| 2                               | \$16,862                             | \$21,074      | \$19,386      |
| 3                               | \$21,155                             | \$26,447      | \$24,327      |
| 4                               | \$25,448                             | \$31,820      | \$29,268      |
| 5                               | \$29,741                             | \$37,193      | \$34,209      |
| 6                               | \$34,034                             | \$42,566      | \$39,150      |
| 7                               | \$38,327                             | \$47,939      | \$44,091      |
| 8                               | \$42,620                             | \$53,312      | \$49,032      |
| For each additional person, add | \$4,293                              | \$5,373       | \$4,941       |



FAMILY of COMPANIES

ROBERTS COUNTY

TELEPHONE

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

205 Main Street

PO Box 197

New Effington, SD 57255-0197

Phone: (605) 637-5211

(888) 668-0877

Fax: (605) 637-5302

E-mail: [customercare@rctca.net](mailto:customercare@rctca.net)

Website: [www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com)

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RC TECHNOLOGIES

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Website: [www.tnics.com](http://www.tnics.com)

## SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK UP APPLICANTS QUALIFYING UNDER INCOME-BASED CRITERION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Link Up assistance based on my household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. I further certify under penalty of perjury that there are \_\_\_\_\_ members in my household and that the supporting income documentation presented to my telecommunications provider accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

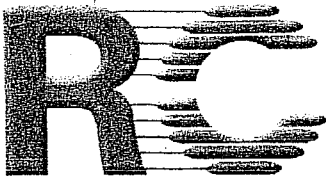
**LIFELINE/LINKUP  
CERTIFICATION OF  
INCOME DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES**

I, Kathie Bragg, hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. have procedures in place to verify customers' income documentation and that, to the best of my knowledge, the Company was presented with said documentation before Lifeline/Linkup Assistance was granted based on household income at or below Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Kathie Bragg  
Billing Manager

11/10/04  
Date





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October 25, 2004

Dear Customer:

You currently participate in Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association or RC Communications Inc.'s Lifeline assistance program. The Federal Communications Commission recently issued an order that requires telephone companies like ours to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customer's continued eligibility.

If you are still eligible for Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application and return it to us by **December 31, 2004**. Please note the three new eligibility criteria: National School Lunch free lunch program; Temporary Aid to Needy Families; and income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).

| Family Members                 | Income   |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1                              | \$12,569 |
| 2                              | \$16,862 |
| 3                              | \$21,155 |
| 4                              | \$25,448 |
| 5                              | \$29,741 |
| 6                              | \$34,034 |
| 7                              | \$38,327 |
| 8                              | \$42,620 |
| For each additional member add |          |
| \$4,293                        |          |

No additional information is needed if you participate in one or more of the eligible programs. However, the new income eligibility criterion requires documentation of income eligibility. Such documentation includes a customer's prior year's state or federal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, or other such official documents. If your documentation does not cover an entire year please provide three consecutive month's worth of the same type of document.

Please note: income is all income actually received by all members of the household. Income includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker's compensation benefits, gifts and lottery winnings. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances and irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing.

If you qualify based on household income, please come to our office at 205 Main Street, New Effington, with the required documentation. All other applicants recertifying are welcome to drop the application off at the New Effington office, or you may mail it back to us in the enclosed return envelope.

Please feel free to call me at 637-5211 or (888) 668-0877 with any questions you may have regarding the application or the Lifeline/Link Up programs and thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathie Bragg  
Billing and Customer Service Manager

Enclosures