

Alexander Graham

Bell Chapter #15

Newsletter February 2018

Pioneer Volunteers - Upcoming Event

38th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

SATURDAY – MARCH 24, 2018

10:30AM TO 1:00PM

Volunteers please report by 10:00AM

LOCATION: CENTREVILLE MOOSE LODGE

3529 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030

RAIN OR SHINE

For any additional information you might need contact: Nancy Rebar at 703-407-1751 or rebar@verizon.net

Hello Pioneers of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. As your President, I would like to extend on behalf of the Alexander Graham Bell Chapter #15, Season's Greetings and strong wishes for a prosperous New Year to all of our Pioneer families and supporters.

One of the goals for our Chapter in 2018 is to "Re-energize" and to "Re-engage" with our willing and faithful Pioneers in our region. As we work toward achieving this goal, we hope to "re-vitalize" the spirit of volunteerism in our communities.

Each year our Chapter gets together to discuss, which programs that are most in need of our support. This year, 2018, we will be focusing in on programs, which provide service to Foster Families/Children and Homeless population. This will include individuals, families, teens and Military veterans. We will do this, while continuing to support our on-going programs in the areas of Education and Domestic Violence. Please join us as we look to "Answering the Call" for those in need communities.

Best regards, William "Bill" Keene

Prince George's Council -

Volunteer Pioneer Partner James Boyd and I visited the Clinton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center today. We met with Ms. Denise Jackson and her staff and presented items on behalf of the New Vision Pioneers. she stated that the center currently has 260 patients.

Some of the items presented are as follows:

- Fleece throws
- Men's T-shirts
- Men's socks
- Men's gloves & hats
- Men' body wash & shampoo
- Men's safety razors & shaving cream
- Ladies hats & gloves
- Ladies slippers & socks
- Brushes & combs
- Ladies shampoo & conditioner
- Tooth brushes & toothpaste
- Nail polish & remover
- Ladies safety razors & shaving cream
- Individual packs of tissues
- Body lotion

Ms. Jackson and her staff expressed their appreciation for the donations.

On December 15, 2017 Chapter President Bill Keene, Pioneer Partner James and I visited Mount Rainer Elementary School located in Mount Ranier Maryland. We presented student dictionaries and scholastic books to two second grade classes. The students were very excited and happy to received the books.

Mr. Ted Herman (Teacher) expressed his appreciation for our visit and the presentations of the dictionaries and scholastic readers.

Sincerely Loretta Boyd - PG Council President



This past year the Pioneer Organization received two Grants, the grants were split between the current 17 Chapter. AGB portion of the money was put to good use by giving back to our local communities. The following articles describes the project. Respectfully submitted by: Susan Shaw

#1 For a portion of the 2017 PCFG Grant, Alexander Graham Bell Chapter 15 looked to assist in the area of education- specifically Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia. FCPS system is the 10th largest in the U.S., serving more than 188,000 students in grades prekindergarten through 12. FCPS supports a wonderfully diverse student population but more than 52,000 (28%) of those students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals; more than 28,000 (17 %) receive English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) services, and more than 25,000 (13%) receive special education services. When we reached out to Sherry Noud of FCPS and asked how we might be able to help, she cited their greatest need was backpacks. Fortunately, one of AGB's yearly chapter projects is providing backpacks to our serving area, so our Nancy Rebar already had an account with a vendor at low rates. Spending \$1,814.40, we gladly responded by shipping to their warehouse 18 boxes, a total of 432 backpacks. Sherry invited us to join her at their warehouse on August 23rd for distribution day. We saw and met

school staff coming to the warehouse to pick up the backpacks we purchased as well as numerous other supplies. The timing of our help could not have been better as a couple of organizations that FCPS had counted on in the past were unable to help this year. Our group's donation of 432 backpacks was the largest. The backpacks were well received and appreciated! Deliveries were completed by 8/7/17.



#2 For a portion of the 2017 PCFG Grant, Alexander Graham Bell Chapter 15 looked to assist in the area of human services. Specifically, St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth, and Families. St. Ann's is located in Hyattsville, MD and supports Maryland's and Washington DC's most vulnerable youth. They are a 157-year-old organization committed to lifting children, mother's and families out of poverty and homelessness. Their multi-faceted housing and support programs provide the tools for life-long independence. Their Teen Mother Baby Program, Supportive & Transitional Housing Program, Clinical and Social Work Services, Education & Employment Program, and Child Care Center are at the core of St Ann's life-saving mission. They currently support 26 mothers and 31 children ages 1 wk to 10 yrs old. The average stay for a family is 2 years. AGB has supported St. Ann's for many years so when we reached out to Sister Mary Bader to ask how we could further help, she gratefully told us that with the growing number of families in their Hope House Program, they were most in need of a refrigerator freezer. The families in this residential program purchase their own food and make their own meals. Lucky for all, this happened around a holiday weekend with great sales on appliances! We found one that fit their needs including free delivery and setup! Delivery was completed on Sept 8th. Sister Mary arranged a visit for

us on Oct 6th where we brought additional items including 2 rugs, a book, diapers and many food items (Dish It Up). Sister Mary spoke in length about their mission and challenges. She also gave us a tour of the facilities, so we could see how our help makes a difference.

#3 For this project, we selected to purchase pajamas and books to provide to children living in safe houses and shelters within the Northern Virginia community. We reached out to Karen Duffy, Local President of "Pajama Program" to help identify where the needs were the greatest and to help with contacts and coordinate delivery. Karen is a strong advocate for the safe and caring feelings a child experiences when given a new set of pajamas and a book. She was excited to help. With the grant money, we purchased 152 sets of pajamas and matched these with scholastic books which we already had on hand. Sizes ranged from 9 mos-17yrs. Each set of pajamas was paired with a book to match and bound together with soft yarn of warm colors. We made deliveries to four locations in Northern Virginia. One location in Manassas, one location in Fairfax, one in Falls Church and one in Annandale. All the pajamas and books were well received and appreciated!

Deliveries were completed by 7/26/17.



rulers, tissues, highlighters , crayons, pocket folders and student dictionaries.

This has become an annual project for our Chapter. If you would like to help in the future please notify the pioneers at: rebar@verizon.net



Montgomery County Social Services -

Volunteers from the Council put together toiletry bags with items for the homeless that were delivered in December, 2017. We also made baskets for new home dwellers out of laundry baskets with items needed to help out with necessities which were also delivered in December.

Student Volunteers were on board during their winter break to assist with assembling "Welcome Home" greeting cards for the military thru "Operation Home", based out of Sykesville, Maryland. This organization greets returning military at the Baltimore Washington International airport, with banners, flags and small tokens of appreciation. This will ne an ongoing project throughout 2017-2018 where students from Montgomery County schools can earn student service hours.

Sincerely Lee Arguilar - Council President

Backpack Project- 2017- August, 2017 - Backpack Project Once again members from the Chapter came together to put together 100 Backpacks for our local schools filed with school supplies such as; pencils, glue sticks, notebooks, erasers, pens,

DC Council -Our Council was proud and overwhelmed when the OLPH Women' Ministry introduced us to the opportunity of working with Martha's Table, in conjunction with **Children of Mine Youth Center** with their **annual Fall Community Celebration of providing a delicious meal for all to enjoy**. Not only did we prepare to feed nearly 700 but the organization, Kicks 4 the City distributed FREE shoes (Men, Women and Children) to all, on site participants. Our efforts, preparing for 700, was far exceeded by, at least, 350 to 400 additional attendees. The food was stretched as far as it could go but everyone was able to get a pair of shoes, if not for themselves, for another family member. The Music, Dancing and Children activities were enjoyed by all. Another Thank You, to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for donating the Panorama Room space.

Please feel free to come and enjoy Pioneer Dawn "Nicki" Wilkinson with FREE Line Dancing Class in the donated space of the OLPH Panorama Room. Every Tuesday, at 12:30pm. Just wear your dancing shoes and "fake it, till you make it". (The Panorama Room is located at 1600 Morris Road, S.E. DC 20020).

Life Members on the go!

Please notify us of any changes or corrections to your information on file; Name change, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Name: _____
Address Change _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone Number: _____
Email address: _____
Retired date: _____ (month & year)
Birth date: _____ (month & day)
Mail to: New Vision Pioneers P.O. Box 2447 Merrifield, VA 22116-2447

Contact Information -

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