

ATT 100th Year Anniversary

In honor of our 100th year anniversary, the AT&T Pioneers international theme this year is **Sparking Pioneers for a New Century of Service**. And our Alabama Chapter selected the theme, **"CONNECTING THE PAST TO SPARK THE FUTURE"**.

To help honor this milestone in our history and our service to the community in the future, our Metro council adopted the theme;

Special Pioneers at ATT Reaching the Kommunity (SPARK) -

Please watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities and events and plan now to help us sparkle.



Betty M Wells
President, ATT Pioneers
Volunteer Network

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President's Message

April 27, 2011 in Alabama will emblazon itself in my memory forever with immeasurable tragedy -- tragedy that provided another opportunity to see immeasurable goodness in action as we all did something to help ease the pain and spark hope.

Likewise since the devastating April tornadoes, the stories of tragedy, loss, courage, and faith continues to be told -- stories surrounding a day that changed Alabama for a lifetime and stories about a time that brought Alabama Pioneers together to serve those affected by the tornados and fulfilling our primary mission -- service to the community at large!

AT&T Pioneers and employee volunteers from all over Alabama and other AT&T states have assisted those in need. We've made monetary donations, collected needed items, worked in neighborhoods helping to clear debris and to find keepsakes, cleaned houses, cooked and provided food to feed those in the affected communities and its volunteers, manned phone banks, donated prom dresses or bride dresses to those

affected by the tornado, provided our shoulders and listening ears and prayed, supported United Way, the Salvation Army and Christian Service Mission, Humane Society and other agencies in their disaster relief efforts or simply hugged a neighbor--we were there!

We know that in the days and weeks, months and even years ahead, the need for volunteers will be just as great and if not in metro Birmingham then somewhere in our state. And as the Alabama Pioneers move into our disaster relief long term recovery process -- as our cities and towns begin to rebuild -- more volunteer opportunities will become available. Please look for email correspondences from the AT&T Pioneers and flyers around the AT&T buildings requesting volunteers to help on AT&T Pioneer workdays, projects and with collection drives in the ongoing tornado relief efforts.



President's Message continued...

It's been said that "it is amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn't matter who gets the credit." While I encourage you to continue to volunteer with us in the statewide AT&T Pioneers projects, please also volunteer with the other organizations' disaster recovery efforts. Please visit Hands on Helpers/Hand on Birmingham website (handsonbirmingham.org) for a list of current disaster relief projects where volunteers are needed to help meet ongoing needs.

Additionally, please see the Habitat for Humanity article included in this newsletter and respond --

maybe make it a work group project for a day or family activity on the weekend.

In closing I am reminded that Mother Theresa is known as the Saint of the Little Ways, meaning she believed in doing the little things in life well and with great love. Whether you were able to give little or much and to the initial and continuing disaster relief efforts, YOU did provide the spark needed to help rebuild many lives and impact a better community.

On behalf of entire City Center AT&T Pioneers Metro Council team, Thank YOU to each of you!



We want to salute all AT&T Volunteers for the Birthday months of May and June.

Volunteer Hall of Fame



The Spark of an Idea - In Honor of Our Veterans

THE HONOR FLIGHT is our way of paying a small tribute to those who gave so much—a memorable, safe, and rewarding TOUR of HONOR!!! Mr. Wallace pictured here in route to DC and at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington DC.

Mr. Lowell Wallace, 93, saw the WWII memorial for the first time. He grew up in the western part of Birmingham, Alabama and now lives Hueytown, Alabama. He joined the Navy Seabees in 1941. Some of the places where he served included the Hawaiian Islands, Saipan, Okinawa, Guam and Tokyo, Japan and with assignments that included building runways for the war airplanes.

On 4 May 21011, Mr. Wallace escorted by one of his three daughters, Peggy Burdette, along with other WWII veterans, traveled to see their Memorial. For most if not all of the veterans on the trip, it was their first time to see the memorial built to honor them. And as you might imagine, they likely thought that they'd never get to see it. Mr. Wallace expresses his sincere thanks to the Honor Flight team and volunteers and guardians/escorts.

In serving others Mr. Wallace started a Lion's Club in Hueytown when he was young and also helped to get baseball fields in his community. He started playing guitar during war, continues to play today with the house band every Saturday night at the Tannehill Opry in McCalla. He also sings. Thank you Mr. Wallace for your service to our country helping defend the freedoms and safety still afforded us today.

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society. Now, with over one thousand World War II veterans dying each day, our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out. *Please contact Susie Conway to learn how you can help support the Honor Flight program.*



Reminders/ Save the Date Events:

Milestones Walking Tour (Saturdays Through July 10 a.m.)

A walking tour of Birmingham's historic Civil Rights and Fourth Avenue business districts. Bring your walking shoes. The tour, led by Master Tour Guide Barry McNealy, lasts one hour and passes notable sites in the area. Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Free. (205) 328-9696. bcri.org

Birmingham City Councilor Maxine Herring Parker's District 4 Focus on Family Night

(Thursday, July 21, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.) W.C. Patton Park, 1200 Sipsey Street, 35207
Free! Fun activities for the entire family (bring your own lawn chair): Zumba classes, movies, food and more. More information? Call 254-2464 or maxine.parker@birminghamal.gov



Jazz in the Park Birmingham (FREE - 2011 Summer Schedule; Events Times are 5 – 9 p.m.)

July 10 – W. C. Patton Park;
July 14 – Ensley Park
July 24 – East Lake Park;
July 31 – Legion Field
August 7 – Botanical Gardens;
August 14 – Vulcan Park
August 21 – Tom Bradford Park;
August 28 – Sidewalk Film Festival (downtown)
Sept 4 – RailRoad Park

Bring your picnic basket and lawn chair for an evening of music featuring a diverse group Birmingham-area jazz musicians.

[For more information visit - magiccitiesmoothjazz.com](http://magiccitiesmoothjazz.com)

Taste of 4th Avenue Jazz Festival (FREE - Saturday, September 24, 2011)

For vendor information, contact Natalie A. Kemp, 205.542.1135 <http://www.iustataste.org>

Movies at Birmingham's Railroad Park Sponsored By AT&T

1600 1st Avenue South
Thursday, September 15
Thursday, September 29

Need Volunteers:
Upcoming Events
Sign up Today:



Furry Independence Celebration (July 1-9) The Shelby Humane Society has agreed to help its residents with their pursuit for independence and for seven days only, all animals in the shelter will be available for adoption for only \$17.76!
<http://www.shelbyhumane.org>

Membership- Join AT&T Pioneers:
Contact Cheryl Davis@3686@att.com

Medical Equipment – Gently Used or New Donations:
Contact Audrey Melson@am5292@att.com

Musical Instrument Donations Drive:
Contact Janelle Prewitt@jp5185@att.com

Habitat for Humanity:
Contact Carl Matzke@cm4143@att.com

Literacy Council – Signature Series:
Contact Zeld Luke@zl4527@att.com

Job Shadowing:
Contact Ricky Parker@rickyparker01@bellsouth.net

City Center Yard Sale Fundraiser:
Contact Angela Grigsby@ag2652@att.com

Shelters Meals:
Contact Roesherren Williams@rw9721@att.com

Alabama Disaster Relief Projects
Contact Susie Conway@susan.conway@att.com

Pioneers, we want to hear about your experience, so that we can share and or improve it. Please share your story or make suggestions – send comments to Rudy Lewis @ ll0131@att.com



AT&T Pioneers Alabama Chapter Sparkling Bluebird Revitalization Environmental Centennial Project

**Metro Council Partnership with
Boy Scouts of America -- Gate City
Boy Scouts Unit/Pack 258**

Alabama AT&T Pioneers purchased Bluebird houses from A.I.D.B. (Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind) to be used in a CENTENNIAL project to revitalize the bluebird populations in the state of Alabama. We learned that in southern states nesting can commence as early as March and continue well into the summer months. Additionally the eastern bluebird is a year-round resident of Alabama.

The AL AT&T Pioneers are installing blue bird houses to help provide suitable nesting places to help improve the size of bluebird populations.

Bluebird populations were severely affected by nesting competition from starlings and house sparrows. Efforts by the AT&T Pioneers, the North American Bluebird Society, and many other groups and individuals to provide bluebird nesting boxes has greatly improved the plight of these beautiful birds. Since bluebirds adapt well to man-made nesting boxes, bluebird boxes and trails play an

important role in supporting local populations and are perhaps vital to the species' long term success.

From Huntsville to Birmingham to Mobile statewide, the AT&T Pioneers built bluebird houses to place in public areas such as city parks, botanical gardens, local schools and



backyards suitable for bluebirds. The bluebird houses were delivered to Metro Council and the 11 other Pioneers councils in the state. Each house was branded with a 100th year AL AT&T Pioneers logo.

Metro Council partnered with Boy Scouts of America-- the Gate City Boy Scouts Unit/Pack 258, coordinated by Derrick Russaw, Scout Reach

Director, to build 20 of the bluebird houses. The boy scouts also helped place the birdhouses in the metro Birmingham parks and communities including one in the Gate City park. This partnership project that also included Birmingham Parks and Recreation was very rewarding for the Gate City scouts and our entire volunteer team.

Pictured are Gate City Boy Scout pack 258, Betty Wells and Tim Pearson, President and VP Metro Council, Tanya O'Neal, Environment Committee Chair, Metro Council, Stanley Robinson, PR BHAM Parks and Recreation, Christopher Cummings and Kathera Edwards, BSA Pack Leaders.



In the Spotlight:



Birmingham Do Dah Day Parade Fundraiser

Bill and Carol Cartus and Lacey – Participated in the Birmingham Do Dah Day Parade Fundraiser for the Humane Society held on Saturday, May 21, 2011. They entered in the "Movie Theme" category with 101 Dalmatians. Carol as Cruella De Vil, and Bill as Jasper (one of the sidekicks who helped steal the dogs). Lacey, their Dalmatian, was himself and brought lots of smiles.

Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity can use your help: Habitat disaster response – rebuilding and repairing

Many of you may be wondering what you can do in light of the recent storm disaster to help out in our area. Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity can use your help during its disaster relief efforts over the next several months. Habitat will be doing disaster response – rebuilding and repairing – in the North Smithfield Community from now until early August.

They would like to have up to 100 volunteers per day (every Thursday, Friday and Saturday) on Allen Street (**check in at 4800 Allen Street, Birmingham AL 35207**). Volunteers will be divided among the various disaster recovery sites by the site supervisors each day. HfH will have a variety of homes going at the same time and anticipates rebuilding or repairing dozens of homes in this community over the summer and will need lots of helping hands. Some homes will be built from the slab up, some are extensive repairs, and some involve minor repairs. There is also lots of debris clean-up in the community if people would be interested in that rather than construction.

Work day is 7:30 – 4 pm each day.

Habitat would like to know number of registrants a minimum of 24 hours in advance each day to help our site supervisors plan their work. So, if you would like to schedule a team day with your work group, please schedule it through our Habitat for Humanity coordinator, Carl Matzke (<mailto:cm4143@att.com>). However, if you and a couple of family and friends want to simply show up at the check-in site (directions below) and help out, go ahead, but be sure to log your volunteer hours at AT&T Cares.

Please contact Carl Matzke with any questions you have.

From Downtown Birmingham to Allen Street:

- Take I-65 N
- Take EXIT 264, Daniel Payne Parkway
- Turn LEFT at the end of the exit ramp
- Take first RIGHT onto TRAX DRIVE
- Take first LEFT onto CAMPBELL LANE
- Turn LEFT onto ALLEN STREET



Career Day at Avondale Elementary

Career Day at Avondale Elementary, April 21, 2011 – AT&T Pioneers -Metro Council along with 30 plus other businesses and professional groups participated in this career day. It was held to encourage these elementary age students to start thinking about future careers. Betty Wells and Ricky Parker (President and Past President of Metro Council) had the I Phone on hand to demonstrate 'apps for that' plus they had books to give away when playing AT&T Trivia with the students.



AT&T California Manager came to volunteer with the Alabama AT&T Pioneers

Helen Tornquist, AT&T Area Manager located in Anaheim, California, came to Birmingham to volunteer with the Alabama AT&T Pioneers and other statewide disaster relief efforts and in support of her Birmingham managers, Sherrie Bigham and Regina Sellers families' affected by the tornados in Pleasant Grove, AL. Helen is pictured here with AT&T Pioneers Metro Council President, Betty Wells.



In the Spotlight cont...



Preparing for AT&T Pioneers Volunteer Work Day

The AL AT&T Pioneers Disaster Relief Committee led by Bell Rogers, Chapter President, is in the process of planning AT&T Pioneers Volunteers Work Days in several areas of the state to assist with the April 27, 2011 Tornadoes Disaster Relief. The plans include, delivering AT&T comfort care packages; partnering with the HERO Organization; partnering with Hands On Birmingham & United Way; delivering food and cleaning products on Work Days; partnering with Childcare Services for needs of children who lost their parents; and, partnering with the American Red Cross/Salvation Army (clothing and food items). Currently, smaller rural areas have been targeted whom may not receive as much

attention and assistance as some of the larger ones. Pictures here is Bell Rogers, Ricky Parker, Tyiese Ross, Adrienne Gray, Rickey Morgan and Karen Howze-Samuels after preparing 200 adult care packages to be given resident families in the affected areas including 100 special bags for the children. ; Alabama AT&T Pioneers team members not pictured, Susie Conway, Pioneers Workday Coordinator, Deb Busby, Betty Willingham, Betty Wells, Carolyn Cauthen, Bertha Smith, Peggy Burdette, Gary Pledger and Fred McCallum.



Congratulations to Miss Le Na Powe, 2011 Miss Black Alabama, daughter of Casi Ferguson, AT&T Account Manager. Miss Powe will go on to compete for Miss Black USA in early August in Washington, DC with our best wishes...

Boy Scouts of America Built Bluebird House



Bluebird house built by Boy Scouts of America Gate City Pack 258 and placed in natural habitat area by Shelia Goodwin, Metro Council Hospitality Committee Chair

The Alabama Kidney Foundation Walk on May 7, 2011



Over \$174,000 raised by all teams for the Alabama Kidney Foundation

The AT&T Pioneers walk team exceeded our team goal - total raised by our AT&T team was \$5,176.44. Thanks for your generosity and continued support. Our team, the largest group we have had at a walk to-date. We hope to get even more of you to come for future walks. It is lots of fun and the money raised goes for a such great cause.

Special thanks to our AT&T Pioneers AKF Team Chair, Roz

Hood for all of her hard work in helping us achieve this phenomenal amount. We also want to extend an extra HUGE thank you to the AT&T Pioneers CLOWNS! - Go Kidneys!



There's a "First" for everything!

Here we will capture some of Metro's First's



AT&T Pioneers Metro Council held its First Medical Equipment Drive on April 25th in the lobby of AT&T City Center, AOC, Colonnade and Data Center

Why have a Medical Equipment Drive –

Testimonials.....

"I spend my time helping seniors who don't have help getting equipment that they need. When I found **the STAR program, it was a blessing, they are a tremendous help to the needy when they can't get help anywhere else.**" – This is a statement from a Montgomery volunteer for the Area Agency on Aging.

A story was shared with us about a fireman who came across a man caring his daughter who was not able to get out of bed. He needed a hospital bed, a lift and a wheelchair. Through contacts, these items were found and no cost to him.

And although the lift needed repairs a local company which sells these items volunteered

to repair the lift, again at no cost.

As a quadriplegic, Diana Ames knows the importance and value of having reliable medical equipment. She also knows how expensive new equipment can be, especially when insurance does not cover the cost. "There are so many people out here, and often their need is immediate – they need the equipment now, Ames said."

End...

AT&T Pioneers heard these and other similar stories, visited nursing homes and shelters and recognized the need to help. One way was to host a 'Medical Equipment Drive'.

In addition to our area Birmingham AT&T Pioneers partners, we recruited external partners -- Birmingham ADA and REMEDY.

ReMEDy helps consumers acquire FREE medical equipment that has been donated, cleaned, and repaired to assist them with their daily

activities and thereby helping to maintain, increase, or improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, or illness.

ReMEDy is a one-stop collection and distribution point for this donated equipment which can be used by any person who is in need of equipment but may not be able to afford it. This program has been made a reality through the Statewide Technology Access and Response (STAR) program.

[STAR](#) is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) whose mission is to enable all Alabamians with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

ADA where Senator Linda Coleman is the director, help to promote and assist thru the mayor's Office on Americans with Disabilities. The ADA agency is also affiliated with the STAR program in Alabama. ADA also partner with ReMEDy and recommended this agency to us to receive the AT&T Pioneer medical equipment donations. ADA also promoted the AT&T Pioneers Medical Drive event throughout out city offices and where a power chair was donated by one of the city employees.

Through ReMEDy, the equipment is loaned to family members, case workers, school employees and others around the state who work with individuals with both long- and short-term disabilities and illnesses. The individuals can keep the equipment for as long as needed.

By partnering with ReMEDy not only do AT&T Pioneers help to find and collect the medical equipment, but can also help find people who need to be loaned the equipment and help to deliver the equipment to those in need – this helps with expenses.

Thanks to your generous donations, AT&T Pioneers collected and donated these items below to ReMEDy:

- Power Wheelchairs (adult)
- Bedside commodes
- Shower chairs
- Hospital beds (electric and manual) with rails
- Personal mobility devices
- Wheelchairs (regular, custom, and x large)
- Personal mobility devices
- Wheelchairs (regular, custom, and x large)
- Wheelchair lifts for vans
- Patient lifts
- Canes
- Crutches
- Walkers
- Bath transfer seats
- Hearing aid equipment
- Other miscellaneous medical equipment



There's a "First" for everything! cont...

AT&T Pioneers who may not have had medical equipment to donate used their trucks to pick up some of the donated items that were too large for employees to bring into work.

Pictured here Tim Pearson, Metro Council, VP, Audrey Melson, Metro Council Disabilities Committee Chair, Jim Branum, Director of ReMEDy a Medical Equipment Loan Program, ReMEDy volunteers and Senator Linda Coleman and Betty Wells, Metro Council President.

Medical Equipment Drive held just prior to devastating April Tornadoes that resulted in the

increased need for more donated equipment.

We know now that we couldn't have planned a better time to host the drive-- unknown to us that our metro city would soon endure so much devastation and loss from the storms – many affected who were in need of medical equipment for the first time and or in need of having their medical equipment replaced that had been lost in the storm.

We are now in our disaster operations plan mode for medical equipment donations to

help to meet the storm related needs that ReMEDy is now getting. Therefore our AT&T Pioneers Medical Equipment Drive efforts continues – all donations are tax deductible.

If you have gently used or new medical equipment to donate and or for pick-up (items that are too large to bring into work), please contact Audrey Melson, Metro Council Disabilities Committee Chair, 321-3811 or audrey.melson@att.com

Thank YOU in advance!



Musical Instrument Drive Coming Soon

The arts programs in public schools are routinely one of the first things cut. As economic problems persist, public schools continue to cut music programs. AT&T Pioneers are realistic about the challenges that music and art educators often face. However the AT&T Pioneers understand the value arts/music programs provides to students in helping to develop a well rounded student. The AT&T Pioneers are also aware that many families cannot afford to purchase an instrument for their child and therefore the student depend on loaned instruments in order to participate in the music programs – many times music programs are their only extracurricular activity.



Therefore to help expose more children and in particular underprivileged school aged children to music lessons, AT&T Pioneers will be sponsoring its first musical instrument drive. And to better serve all students in metro Birmingham who are interested in music lessons, the AT&T Pioneers are partnering with the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame instructors who teaches FREE music lessons to students and

adults every Saturday (all levels) at the Carver Theater under the direction of Dr. Frank Adams, Sr. world renowned music giant. Why? The Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame is dedicated to ensuring all children have access to a quality education that includes music.

All instruments that are collected will be donated to Jazz Hall of Fame who will clean, refurbished, inventory and loan them out to students in support the youth in our metro city having music lessons offered to them. All students are invited to participate in the Saturday music program and for student to use the loaned instruments in the school music

program.

Please start now locating those instruments in your children closets that are no longer being played and plan to donate these instruments to students who need them. New instruments are welcome too. All donations are tax deductible. Look for flyers with the AT&T Pioneers Instrument Drive collection dates and locations. All persons making instrument donations will be invited to FREE jazz over lunch concert planned for here at City Center.

For additional information and to make instrument donations before the drive, please contact Jamelle Prewitt at jp5185@att.com.

2011 Officers:

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Vendor Sales

All Proceeds support charities in Birmingham and the surrounding areas through the AT&T Pioneers - Birmingham Metro Council and Birmingham Life Member Club

Friday, July 15
 Pictures by Mary Ann

Friday, July 29
 The Bagman

Friday, August 12
 Silverware

The AT&T City Center Pioneer Store

The AT&T City Center Pioneer Store will be open
 Tue, Wed, Thurs**
 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM


Calling All Cooks \$12

Best of the Best \$12
 Umbrellas \$15
 AT&T T-Shirts \$10
 AT&T Polo's \$22

Wanted: New & gently used books
 - drop off at Pioneer Store

If you need store items outside this schedule or to **volunteer in the Pioneer Store during lunch, please contact Karen Howze-Samuels 205 321-2675 or kh0009@att.com.

SAVVY Tips



Movies for \$1 or Less

Did you know that one of the best movie-rental spots is your local library? Here you can check out family favorites and popular movies for very little — and sometimes no charge at all. Visit your local branch, and help lower your entertainment budget.

Education pays...

Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates

