Year in Review

From Bigfork to Wabasso and all of our communities in between, Arvig® is proud to connect our customers throughout the state of Minnesota. Our services now provide connectivity solutions to 43,750 internet, 19,000 TV and 55,600 phone customers in the state.

From our beginnings in 1950 as a small family-owned business to an employee-owned, full-service telecommunications company, Arvig's service area now spans 9,000 square miles and includes 27,120 miles of facility.

And though our reach has expanded through the years, we have a personal connection to every place we serve, because our employee-owners call these communities home. We live and work in these towns, right alongside our customers. We sit in the same bleachers to cheer on the home team, we shop at the same grocery stores and we participate in the same local clubs, groups and annual events. We're your neighbors, friends and family, which is why giving back to our communities remains a vital part of who we are. Read on to see how Arvig works to support our communities and customers.

Community-Focused Employees

This past November, Arvig challenged employees to work together to give back to our local communities. By the end of the month, employees had made a difference for a wide variety of organizations, including:

- Someplace Safe, Perham
- Lakes Crisis and Resource Center, Detroit Lakes (pictured top)
- Pelican Rapids Community Food Shelf
- The Bridge food shelf, Perham
- Share the Spirit, Wabasso
- Angel Tree, Detroit Lakes (pictured bottom)
- Arvig Relay for Life, Perham
- American Heart Association, Perham
- Melrose Public Schools
Melrose Receives National Recognition as Smart Rural Community

Melrose was nationally recognized this past year as a Smart Rural Community for its advanced broadband network and innovation efforts. Representatives from a diverse range of sectors in the community partnered with Arvig to share the city’s story.

Arvig nominated Melrose for the award in 2016.

This past summer, representatives from the city, St. Mary’s School, CentraCare Health, Central Minnesota Credit Union, a local dairy farm and non-profits such as the Melrose Area Historical Society/Melrose Area Museum made appearances in a video for the application.

Residents shared their unique perspectives on how technology is being leveraged to advance growth and development for business and residents. In 2013, Melrose officially became the first gigabit-capable community in the state. Every Arvig customer has fiber optic connectivity directly to their premise and access to 1Gbps symmetrical speeds.

“We’re honored to accept this award, and are proud to be active participants in Melrose’s recognition as a Smart Rural Community,” Mark Birkholz, Director of Southern Markets at Arvig, said. “The Melrose motto is ‘Strong, Diverse, Connected’ and this award is a true testament to those words.”

Supporting Our Communities

Each summer, local non-profit youth groups represent Arvig in select community parades by carrying our banner and handing out toys and candy. In return they earn a $150 donation for their organization. If you would like your group to be considered, sign up at arvig.net/parades.

Parade of the North in Detroit Lakes - Tumble Force Gymnastics, Frazee

Thank You! 2016 Parade Participants:

- Ada – Titan Fastpitch, Twin Valley area
- Belview – Wabasso Theatre, Wabasso
- Bigfork – BFHS Football, Bigfork
- Dent – Perham and New York Mills Girl Scouts, Perham
- Detroit Lakes – Tumble Force Gymnastics, Frazee
- Grand Meadow – 5 Star Dance Team, Grand Meadow
- Grey Eagle – United Methodist Church Youth Group, Grey Eagle
- Henning – Henning Public Schools E.F.Trip, Henning
- Kimball – Eden Valley-Watkins DECA, Eden Valley/Watkins
- Melrose – Gopher Prairie 4-H Club, Sauk Centre
- Melrose Holiday – Adley Creek 4-H Club, Melrose
- Morgan – C-CM-S Track, Morgan
- Park Rapids – Pinecones 4-H Club, Park Rapids
- Parkers Prairie – Amor 4-H Club, Battle Lake
- Pelican Rapids – St Mary of the Lakes Youth Group, Detroit Lakes
- Perham – EOT Wranglers 4-H Club, Perham
- Perham Holiday – Arvig Relay For Life
- Twin Valley – Lake Park-Audubon Cross Country, Lake Park
- Wadena – Trinity Youth Group, New York Mills
FRS Youth Tour

Kaitlyn Kluck, a student from Hawley, was selected as the winner of Arvig’s essay contest and attended the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) Youth Tour, June 4-8, 2016.

Kluck joined more than 100 other high school students from rural America for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they had an inside look at the legislation and governmental process of the telecommunications industry.

The FRS Youth Tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities, as well as key legislative, regulatory and government figures. The Youth Tour delegates explored historic sites including Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, Mount Vernon, Lincoln Memorial, Washington National Cathedral, the U.S. Supreme Court and Smithsonian Institution.

People To Know in 2017

In December, David Arvig, Vice President/COO of Arvig was named one of Twin Cities Business (TCB) 100 People To Know. According to TCB, their annual list of 100 people to know is not about power or name recognition. The editors’ goal is to identify the key individuals they expect to make an impact on local business, the regional economy and quality of life in 2017.

Read the entire article at tcbmag.com.

Arvig Scholarship Recipients

Each year, Arvig provides scholarships to deserving high school seniors in our local communities through the Royale B. and Eleanor M. Arvig Memorial Scholarship. Students were selected based upon achievements or interest in the field of mathematics, engineering, accounting, computer science, telecommunications or any of the physical sciences. Each student will receive $3,000.

The list of scholarship winners from the class of 2016, in alphabetical order by high school:

- Gracie Johnson of Borup (Ada-Borup HS), engineering
- Charles Frost of Battle Lake (Battle Lake HS), engineering
- Alysha Dykhoff of Wadena (Bertha-Hewitt HS), engineering
- Gigi Wanner of Bigfork (Bigfork HS), science
- Ryan Baird of Cass Lake (Cass Lake HS), technology/teaching
- Nicholas Malecek of Morgan (Cedar Mountain HS), finance
- Grace Schulberg of Detroit Lakes (Detroit Lakes HS), anthropology
- Anna Smith of Glyndon (Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton HS), biology
- Allison Ahrendt of Clarissa (Eagle Valley HS), nursing
- Faith Forcier of Watkins (Eden Valley-Watkins HS), mathematics
- Sarah Wendt of Detroit Lakes (Frazee-Vergas HS), communications
- Trevor Sloan of Grand Meadow (Grand Meadow HS), engineering
- Jakob Berg of Hawley (Hawley HS), engineering
- Marissa Geyer of Henning (Henning HS), pre-med
- Colton Czech of Watkins (Kimball HS), aeronautical engineering
- Paul Jenson of Lake Park (Lake Park-Audubon HS), engineering
- Austin Evenson of Long Prairie (Long Prairie-Grey Eagle HS), chemistry
- Patricia McNamee of Mahnomen (Mahnomen HS), physical therapy
- Brooklyn Loxtercamp of Melrose (Melrose HS), nursing
- Megan Edelman of Akeley (Nevis HS), biology
- Taylor Cooley of New York Mills (New York Mills HS), biology
- Jacob Peabody of Twin Valley (Norman County East HS), engineering/mathematics
- Abby Stroup of Alexandria (Osakis HS), biology
- Andre Schaum of Osage (Park Rapids HS), chemistry
- Abigail Koep of Parkers Prairie (Parkers Prairie HS), engineering
- Logan Knorr of Pelican Rapids (Pelican Rapids HS), mathematics
- Eric Huus of Frazee (Frazee-Vergas HS), engineering
- Tyler Hagen of Redwood Falls (Redwood Falls HS), pre-med
- Ben Liebl of Richmond (Rocori HS), computer science
- Dylan Bentfield of Sauk Centre (Sauk Centre HS), engineering
- Obed Lozano of Staples (Staples HS), engineering
- Kaia Brooks of Twin Valley (Ulen-Hitterdal HS), accounting
- Amanda Goblirsch of Wabasso (Wabasso HS), accounting
- Wyatt Fitzsimmons of Wadena (Wadena HS), engineering
- Jacob Wolfe of Walker (Walker HS), majoring in engineering
- Haley Warren of Ogemaw (White Earth HS), majoring in mathematics
- Nathaniel Christianson of Callaway (White Earth HS), major undecided
Economic Development

As a community-based provider, Arvig is proud to support employment and economic development in our rural communities. If you are considering business growth within the Arvig service area, we can help connect you with incentive programs appropriate to your company and project.

Our revolving loan fund is available to provide financing to start or expand your business. These are low-interest loans that can be used for land, building, equipment, furniture, fixtures and infrastructure purposes. The project must demonstrate employment creation/retention or projects that provide needed community facilities or services.

A detailed business plan is required for consideration, funds are limited.

Contact Joan Meece at Joan.Meece@arvig.com or call 218.346.8136 for more information.

Arvig (Redwood County Telephone), Middle Mile Fiber Extension receives grant of $27,998. This project will provide service to 15 unserved households and 20 unserved businesses near Morgan, MN. Arvig will improve service levels to this rural area, which is home to Minnesota's annual FarmFest and relies on quality broadband service for precision agriculture applications and to monitor crops and livestock. The total project cost is estimated at $62,218. Arvig will fund the remaining $34,220.

Computer Recycling a Big Success!

During our computer recycling collection weeks in 2016, customers dropped off 250 computer monitors, 515 desktop towers, 124 laptops, 330 printers and almost 900 keyboards, scanners and other computer accessories so they could be disposed of properly. We thank you for being environmentally responsible!

Watch our newsletters for more information about upcoming recycle weeks!

Arvig Donated More Than $450,000 Back to Communities in 2016

Arvig takes pride in giving back—over the last 10 years, its local contributions have totaled nearly $5 million. In 2016, the company donated more than $450,000 to a variety of organizations, fundraising events, sponsorships, schools, scholarships, community development projects, sports programs and other worthy causes.

In addition, Arvig’s School Partnership Program continues to grow. In the first half of the 2016-17 school year, Arvig gave more than $50,000 to local schools throughout its service area. This brings the total donation amount—since the inception of the program—to more than $600,000.

Over the years, Arvig has also pledged more than $1.08 million to support multiple community development projects. This commitment has included funding toward the Parkers Prairie Public Swimming Pool, Detroit Mountain Recreation Area in Detroit Lakes, the new Melrose CentraCare Hospital, Vergas Trails, Sanford Health Foundation, and others.

To make good on those promises, last year, the company made payments of more than $190,000 total toward those projects.

To view the entire list of recipients, visit www.arvig.net.

Arvig donates to Landslide Tubing Park in Detroit Lakes: (pictured l to r) Carmen Arvig, Mark Fritz of Lakeshirts, and one of the people behind getting Detroit Mountain up and running again, Allen Arvig and David Arvig.