

# ALPINE COMMUNIQUÉ

ALPINE  
communications

Real Access. Real Value. Real People.

Q1 2021 Newsletter

## Alpine Celebrates with North Fayette Valley Community Coalition on Foundation for Rural Service Grant Award

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) announced the recipients of 23 grants totaling \$104,000 to advance the quality of life and enable economic development in communities served by members of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association.

Alpine Communications is pleased to announce North Fayette Valley Community Coalition as one of these grant recipients. North Fayette Valley Community Coalition received \$4,990.00 to purchase an iPad, heavy duty case with stand, bean bag cushion, fidget toys, and storage tote for each of the North Fayette Valley School District's five buildings to facilitate and encourage mental health telehealth services with Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health.

"Especially during the ongoing pandemic, the work or projects these grant recipients are going to accomplish will make a significant impact in their communities," said FRS Executive Director Pam Becker.



*Pictured are Chris Hopp, Alpine Communications; Stacie Schroder and Allie Ney, North Fayette Valley Community Coalition*



**It is more important than ever before to expand telemedicine options and ensure that students have access to technology. We are grateful for all our recipients' hard work, the NTCA members that endorsed them and continue to help their communities, and to our grant sponsor Womble Bond Dickinson."** - Pam Becker

## Aureon Provides \$8,600 in Charity Grants to Local Organizations

Aureon is pleased to announce that Aureon Charity Grants for Q1, Q2, and Q3 2020 have been awarded to area non-profit organizations in Northeast Iowa. The grants were presented in conjunction with Alpine Communications who sponsored the grant applications. Upon reviewing an abundance of applications, the Aureon Charity Grant Committee delegated funds to projects committed to the betterment of local Iowa communities.

*continued on page 2*



**McGregor Park Board – Bill Meyer, Aureon; Maria Brummel, McGregor Park Board; Dalton Hall, Alpine**

If your phone number appears in parentheses (XXX-XXXX) in this edition of the Alpine Communiqué, please give us a call at 563-245-4000 by March 31, 2021, and we'll apply a \$5 credit to your account!



continued from page 1

## Aureon Provides \$8,600 in Charity Grants to Local Organizations

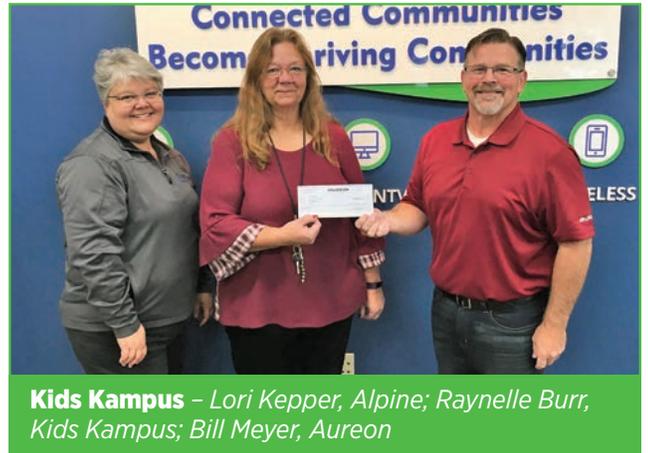
- **McGregor Hook & Ladder Co #1** - \$1,500.00 to purchase new bunker gear
- **Kids Kampus** - \$400.00 to help fund a new computer, iPad, and wireless router for the daycare center.
- **Main Street Elkader** - \$1,000.00 to purchase string lights for the downtown district
- **Garnavillo Historical Society** - \$500.00 towards the purchase of updated display cabinets for the museum
- **Clayton County Conservation** - \$500.00 to help fund the expenses for the Junior Naturalist Camp
- **Elkader Depot Project** - \$200.00 to fund the purchase of a new sign for the Elkader Depot Museum
- **McGregor Park Board** - \$1,500.00 to help fund the community splash pad in Turner Park
- **City of Guttenberg** - \$1,500.00 to assist in funding ADA-accessible playground equipment at Duwe Field
- **City of Guttenberg** - \$500.00 to help fund bleachers for the ball fields (426-5771)
- **City of Clayton** - \$500.00 to purchase flag poles on flag poles and brackets
- **Clayton County Conservation** - \$500.00 towards the purchase of a log splitter

“Alpine Communications commends the efforts of these organizations to create thriving communities through these worth projects,” Chris Hopp, General Manager, Alpine Communications. “We are proud to partner with Aureon to make this grant possible.”

The Aureon Charity Grant Program was created in 1993 to increase service and support to rural independent telecommunications companies and the communities they serve. The Aureon Charity Grant Program awards grants on a quarterly basis. Over the course of twenty-five years, Aureon has donated over \$950,000 to Iowa nonprofits through the grant program. To learn more, please contact [Giving@Aureon.com](mailto:Giving@Aureon.com).



**McGregor Hook & Ladder Co #1** – Sara Hertrampf, Alpine; Trampus Thornton and Issac Sauer, McGregor Hook & Ladder Co #1; Bill Meyer, Aureon



**Kids Kampus** – Lori Kepper, Alpine; Raynelle Burr, Kids Kampus; Bill Meyer, Aureon



**Main Street Elkader** – Bill Meyer, Aureon; Ashley Augustyn and Danielle Shea, Main Street Elkader; Lanette Schutte, Alpine



**Garnavillo Historical Society** – Bill Meyer, Aureon; Carol Desotel; Lori Keppler, Alpine; Ron Kaiser, Garnavillo Historical Society



**Clayton County Conservation** – Bill Meyer, Aureon; Molly Scherf, Clayton County Conservation; Lara Duff, Alpine



**Elkader Depot Project** – Chris Boesker, Alpine; Janis Lerch, Judy Wallendorf and Mary Lee Witt, Elkader Depot Museum; Bill Meyer, Aureon



**City of Clayton** – Bill Meyer, Aureon; Kim Kuehl and Kaitlyn Kuehl-Berns, City of Clayton; Sara Hertrampf, Alpine



**Clayton County Conservation** - Lanette Schutte, Alpine; Kenny Slocum, Clayton County Conservation; Bill Meyer, Aureon

## Did you know you live in a Smart Rural Community?



The Iowa communities of Elkader, Elgin, Garnavillo, Guttenberg, Marquette, and McGregor received the designation of Smart Rural Community by NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association. As Smart Rural Communities Gig-Certified Provider, Alpine Communications is recognized for its essential work in bringing broadband-enabled advances to rural America. (873-3913)

Chris Boesker, one of Alpine’s broadband technician, shared why he believes being a Smart Rural Community Gig-Certified provider is crucial to the region.



**As a Smart Rural Community provider, we deliver reliable and fast**

**Internet service - an essential service for these times.** With the pandemic going on, more and more people want and need to work from home and take online classes. Also, the ability to Skype and FaceTime with the family to keep connected is a must. Customers have peace of mind knowing they don’t have to worry about buffering or slow connections,”

described Chris.



**Chris Boesker,**  
Broadband Technician

# Introducing HBO Max with Alpine Communications

**NEW!**

Where the best shows and movies come together to form one extraordinary entertainment experience. You'll get HBO channels plus the new HBO Max app to stream everything on HBO with so much more. New hits, classic favorites and exciting Max Originals with something for everyone.

**Upgrade today -**  
**Call 563-245-4000 to subscribe to HBO Max. Current FusionTV customers who subscribe to HBO now have HBO Max for no extra charge. Activate your service today.**



*HBO MAX™ is only accessible in the U.S. and certain U.S. territories where a high-speed broadband connection is available. HBO MAX is used under license.*

## College Scholarship Applications Now Available



Alpine Communications has teamed up with The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), Aureon, and Iowa Communications Alliance to offer three scholarship opportunities to our service areas' high school seniors.

- 1. The FRS college scholarship** program awards twenty-five scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 to winning applicants across the nation. Eligibility requirements and the application can be downloaded from FRS at [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org). Completed applications must be returned to our office by February 19, 2021, so that we may complete the sponsor certification and forward the applications to FRS. (255-2569)
- 2. The Aureon Scholarship** makes \$10,000 in funds available to students pursuing a STEM-related course of study (science, technology, engineering or mathematics) and residing in a home with service from an Iowa Independent Telecommunications Company (ITC). The application and additional information are available online at [www.aureon.com/scholarship](http://www.aureon.com/scholarship). The scholarship deadline is March 1, 2021.
- 3. The Iowa Communications Alliance** will award two scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Eligibility requirements and the application can be downloaded from [www.iacomcommunicationsall.org/ica-scholarship-programs](http://www.iacomcommunicationsall.org/ica-scholarship-programs). The application deadline is March 4, 2021.

Please call Sara Hertrampf, Alpine's sales and marketing manager, at **563-245-4000** if you have questions about applying for these scholarships.

**APPLY TODAY!**

## Meet the Crew - Dalton Hall

Join us in welcoming Dalton Hall to Alpine Communications. Dalton joined the customer service team in September after relocating his family of five from Kansas to Iowa.

Dalton is from Great Falls, Montana, where he grew up playing hockey and soccer. After attending Foothills Community Christian School, he played soccer at Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas for four years and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Dalton met his wife, Cheyanne, at Montana Wilderness School of the Bible, and she is a native of rural Guttenberg. Before joining Alpine Communications, Dalton worked as a payroll specialist, financial aid specialist, and accounts payable. (252-1225)

Dalton and Cheyanne have three boys under the age of 6, and they enjoy camping, fishing, and nature as a family. In his spare time, Dalton also has a passion for car projects and playing video games. He is a coffee connoisseur, and his preferred drink is a flat white or cortado - a blend of espresso with steamed milk with no foam. His favorite coffee brand is DOMA Coffee Roasting Company sourced from Post Falls, Idaho.

The superpower of choice for Dalton would be teleportation. He explained, "I want to be able to go places without wasting travel time. I wouldn't have to drive, fly, or ride the train anymore to get to where I want to be."



*Welcome, Dalton!*



When asked about his experience at Alpine Communications so far, Dalton shared, "It's a great atmosphere with great people."



They did a great job  
fixing our problem  
and the tech was  
very polite.

JOHN, ELKADER



## Lifeline Support For Affordable Communications

Lifeline is a federal program to help low-income subscribers stay connected by providing a monthly discount up to \$9.25 on their wireline phone, wireless phone, or broadband internet service. If you qualify, your household can get Lifeline for phone or internet service, but not both.

Eligibility guidelines vary throughout the country. **Here in Iowa, you can save monthly and may qualify if you participate in at least one of the following programs:**

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
- Income Below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

You can check eligibility with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org). Or call Alpine Communications at **563-245-4000**.





**CONNECT WITH US:**

923 Humphrey St.  
PO Box 1008  
Elkader, Iowa 52043

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday  
563-245-4000  
or 1-800-635-1059  
www.alpinecom.net

**Technical Support:**

1-888-264-2908

**SecureIT Tech Support:**

1-877-373-3320



Please leave a review  
and help us grow:



# Keehner Believes Rural Broadband is Key for Quality of Life in Clayton County

Alpine Communications caught up with Sharon Keehner at the Connected Communities Summit. As a business teacher for 39 years, she has a lot of experience with technology. Sharon is also a Clayton County Supervisor.

Sharon shared her perspective on high-speed broadband in rural Iowa, “We have great internet here. I just went to robotics training last year, and the gentleman came from Silicon Valley in California. He said he had faster internet at his bed and breakfast in Elkader, Iowa, than he had at his desk in the Silicon Valley.” (245-2284)

She continued, “One of the things we always keep hearing is ‘we don’t have a four-lane highway’ and what they don’t realize is that we have the infrastructure. All we need is the internet and UPS. We can have anything we want here.”

Visit [connect.alpinecom.net](http://connect.alpinecom.net) or Alpine’s YouTube channel for the full interview with Keehner.



Sharon  
Keehner



**We have great internet here. I just went to robotics training last year, and the gentleman came from Silicon Valley in California. He said he had faster internet at his bed and breakfast in Elkader, Iowa, than he had at his desk in the Silicon Valley.”**



**Connected** communities become **thriving** communities.