

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

PROVIDER PALS..... EUREKA!

The Eureka Chamber of Commerce had one of its most interesting speakers last month, that being Bruce Vincent and his daughter Echo Jo with Provider Pals.

What is it..... Where is it..... Who is involved with it..., the answers to these questions quickly unfolded as we learned its been going on the last 5 years, right here in our own backyard.

This is an awesome educational program introducing rural kids to the city and city kids to the country – teaching each a better understanding and respect of their own ways-of-life, along with a focus of where our natural resources come from. Bruce, a 3rd generation logger from Libby and founder of Provider Pals, recognized a disconnect with the outside world as to the understanding of environmental standards and practices that our rural communities have spent decades achieving. To bridge the gap, he formed Provider Pals, which today involves over 300 classrooms across the nation (including Eureka, Libby, Troy, Thompson Falls, Noxon and Plains) and in B.C. Canada.

Every 7th grade Eureka student since 2003 has been sponsored in the classroom portion of the program and another 24 students have taken fully funded cultural exchange trips to New York City and Washington, DC schools.

The Provider Pals program has evolved to much more than I can share in this newsletter, including a Presidential Award and trip to the Whitehouse by Bruce Vincent. You can receive more information by going to their web site at www.providerpals.com or by phone at 406-293-8822.

Randy Wilson
General Manager



PROVIDER PALS

MORE ON PROVIDER PALS

Addressing environmental practices of today, the program has launched a human touch using real people with an – “adopt a logger, adopt a farmer, miner, rancher... programs.”

Each having a face behind the name, who in turn communicate with large numbers of students from around the country and eventually make a face-to-face visit to see the inner-city schools. Bruce says the welcoming of these ranchers, loggers, miners and farmers when they visit an inner-city school, has been overwhelming & emotional at times (with autographs, pictures and sharing gifts.)

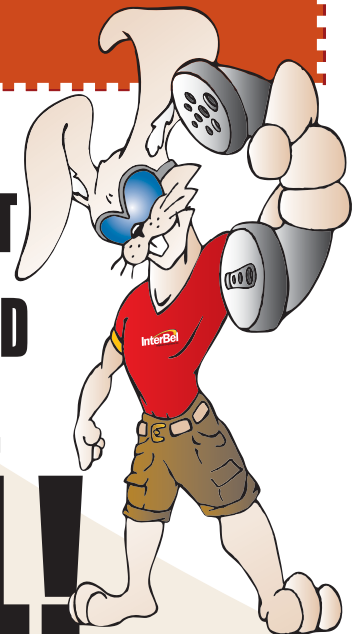


Above: Montana Rancher shares some tips on roping with a new friend. Below: NYC - May, 2007 – Libby, MT students heading to Ellis Island during their NYC rural to urban exchange experience.



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