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July 14, 2005

Employee Volunteers Provide DSL to Soldiers at Medical Center

When a popular radio show aired some of the challenges facing soldiers being treated at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Peter Krucoff didn't hesitate. Krucoff, a manager at the DSL network operations center in Greenbelt, Md., called the hospital to ask how he could help. He learned the soldiers felt isolated because they didn't have Internet access. Other companies had already offered computers, network devices and set-up help, but the soldiers had no way to stay in contact with their units overseas and their families back home. Krucoff and co-workers Chris Worthy, a central office technician, and Dare Akinuli, a senior staff consultant in Network Operations, volunteered to install three DSL lines to three Fisher Houses -- the medical center's homes-away-from-home for patients and families. The Verizon TelecomPioneers raised funds to pay for a year of DSL service. In appreciation of their efforts, the Fisher Houses recognized Krucoff, his co-workers and the Pioneers at a ceremony on the grounds of the center. (See photos below.)

In addition to Verizon and the Verizon TelecomPioneers, other companies also pitched in. Lockheed Martin provided computers, the Milestone Group provided wireless routers, set up the computers and installed software, the Pentagon Federal Credit Union provided funds for software and coordination efforts and Fort Meyer Construction helped with landscaping after the Verizon Online DSL installation and also has agreed to pay for the second year of DSL service.

(Click images for larger photos.)



Two soldiers recovering from their injuries make use of the donated computers and the Verizon Online DSL service we installed at one of the three housing units, called Fisher Houses.



In addition to Verizon and the Telecom Pioneers, companies such as Lockheed Martin, the Milestone Group, the Pentagon Federal Credit Union and Fort Meyer Construction helped with equipment, money and labor.



Verizon Telecom Pioneer Karen Burkovich (left), Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer, commander of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Denise Darden-Woody, a network engineer in Beltsville, Md., who also is a Verizon Telecom Pioneer.



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