## The KINGDOM Connection December 2024

### An Expanding Kingdom

Dear Members,

#### A Message from the CEO/General Manager

Kingdom Telephone Company is proud to share exciting updates on our continued expansion, bringing reliable, high-speed fiber internet and phone service to even more communities across Missouri. Since 2016, Kingdom has steadily grown from our original 605-square-mile service area to reach new territories, connecting rural residents, businesses, and farms with cutting-edge technology.

Our recently completed Reconnect 2 project added approximately 80 square miles to our footprint, bringing fiber availability to over 750 additional locations. Building on that success, Reconnect 3 will expand our reach by an additional 475 square miles. This major project will connect more than 2,200 new locations.

This growth has significantly extended our service area and doubled the number of subscribers to Kingdom services, highlighting our commitment to meeting the needs of rural communities. None of this progress would have been possible without the dedication of our exceptional team. Their expertise, hard work, and focus on delivering outstanding service have driven Kingdom's healthy and sustainable growth. With a strong foundation built on our employees,



robust network, and financial stability, Kingdom is well-positioned to ensure the long-term success of our cooperative.

#### USDA Reconnect 3 Grant Update

I am pleased to share that we have finally cleared the environmental phase of our Reconnect 3 project! Reconnect 3 is the second of two USDA grant projects that will enable us to extend our fiber network further North of our current Kingdom territory. We have a few items to wrap up before we can get shovels in the ground and begin to bury some fiber! The project is broken into 21 separate regions and will take approximately 3 ½ years to complete. The first regions will come online in six to twelve months.

#### Kingdom Scholarships

Community events are always a highlight for us, but scholarship award nights at our local high schools are especially meaningful. These evenings are a celebration of the hard work, dedication, and bright futures of our local students, and it's truly inspiring to see their excitement and potential. Every year, Kingdom Telephone Company offers two college scholarships to help support higher education among our rural youth, investing in the future of our community.

Kingdom will award two **\$1,000** scholarships to qualified applicants. The scholarship is available to students for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. Application information will be sent to schools in our serving territory in early December. If you need additional information, please email us at scholarships@kingdomtelco.com.



Thank you for being a valued member of Kingdom Telephone Company. Your support drives our mission and inspires us to continue improving and expanding our services to meet the needs of our community. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,

Caleb Pashia CEO/General Manager Kingdom Telephone Company

Want to see what we've been up to this year? Scan the QR code below to visit our website and see a slideshow of all the activities Kingdom has participated in this year.



# **Relay Missouri**

#### RELAY MISSOURI PROVIDES FREE PHONE ACCESS FOR HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED

Relay Missouri is a service that provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech-disabled. It can be used to make telephone calls to family, friends, businesses or anyone who has a phone.

The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. It is accurate and transparent. The operator voices everything you type and types everything you say.

All Relay Missouri calls are strictly private. No records of any conversations are maintained.

Relay services are available at no charge. Equipment itself is available upon request to eligible parties. The services are funded by the State.

To learn more, visit relaymissouri.com or kingdomtelco.com/relay-missouri. To use the service, dial 7-1-1 or call the Relay Customer Service Hotline at 800-676-3777 to reach the type of relay needed.