

# Helping Our Own

Casual Dress Day Initiative Supports the 'SaskTel Family'

PUBLISHED: 22 Oct 2018



On 25 Oct 2018, buy a Casual Dress Day sticker and support HOOP.

Thursday October 25, 2018 marks SaskTel Proud Day. It's a day to celebrate with and thank our colleagues for what SaskTel has collectively accomplished. It's also a time to take a moment and reflect on how we support one another, not only in the workplace, but at times when things may have taken a turn in our personal lives.

The support SaskTel employees show for one another is no more evident than through the SaskTel employee driven program Helping Our Own People (HOOP).

HOOP was formed in 1991 to help offset the financial burden of extended health care and illness of SaskTel employees, their spouses or dependents as well as Pioneer Life Members. The program is funded in two ways: by an annual contribution from SaskTel and by SaskTel employees themselves who schedule various events with proceeds going towards HOOP.

Darrell Liebrecht, SaskTel Pioneer Manager, is a member of the HOOP executive which is made up entirely of SaskTel employees. Darrell says HOOP is just another great example of how caring SaskTel and the people are who work here.

"It's commonly said that SaskTel is one big family," says Darrell. "It's what family does, they support one another when life throws a curveball."

Since its inception, HOOP has allocated over \$750,000 to assist employees throughout the province.

One of those who received support is Jordan Weatherbee, Operations Manager – Service in Prince Albert who was featured in a Source story in 2017.

In late 2014, Jordan was diagnosed with cancer. Jordan had surgery in January 2015 and began chemotherapy two months later. He heard about HOOP through co-workers who were able to help Jordan cover part of his travel expenses for his medical appointments from LaRonge, where he was stationed, to Saskatoon (a round trip of 800 kilometres).

Darrell has witnessed dozens of employees who like Jordan have been helped by HOOP at a difficult time.

“Quite often, people are unaware of the support that is available and when they hear about HOOP, they may be a bit resistant to ask for financial assistance and support,” says Darrell. “But this is such a wonderful program that is really owned by each employee of SaskTel. If support is required, HOOP will do its best to help out as much as we can.”

“Don’t be shy or too proud to ask for help,” says Jordan. “It wasn’t until I had my own difficulties that I realized just how much good HOOP does.”