

# Pens, Pencils & Pioneers!

Pioneers Help Students and their Families Ease Into the School Year

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Both Saskatoon and Regina Pioneers chapters delivered school supplies to hundreds of students in need in September.

Pencils, paper and erasers are just a few essential items that students need before they head back to school.

While some of us can easily check those items off our children's back-to-school shopping list, others aren't as fortunate.

Luckily the SaskTel Pioneers volunteer to help relieve some stress for students and their families as they start the new school year.

In September, both Saskatoon and Regina Pioneer chapters delivered school supplies to hundreds of students in need.

"The schools are extremely grateful for the supplies," said Dorianne Urquhart, with the Bridge City Pioneers in Saskatoon. "A lot of those kids come to school without anything, so the donation makes a big impact."

Supplies were distributed to Bishop Klein, Howard Coad, and St. Frances schools in Saskatoon, and St. Augustine, St. Catherine's, Holy Rosary and Coronation Park Community School in Regina.

Duo-tangs, notebooks, pencils, markers, erasers, glue sticks, scissors and rulers are just some of the items delivered to students.

Pam Appleby, Community Coordinator at Holy Rosary School in Regina said it's easy to see how beneficial the supplies are to the children.

"We have a lot of newcomer families and others who struggle financially, so it's nice to be able to help them out with no questions asked," said Pam, who also participated in the program last year at St. Catherine's School.

To-date, Pam said nearly all donated supplies have been distributed, but teachers are thankful to have some left over in case new students are enrolled at the school throughout the year.

"This program is just so important to our communities because students can't do their best without the proper tools," said Marilyn. "I think it's also valuable because it keeps Pioneers connected to their communities."

This year the Saskatoon chapter purchased and delivered over \$5500 in supplies. Regina spent around \$1500.