

# Powerpacks!

## Backpacks Filled with Supplies for Saskatchewan Students

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Helping out with backpacks and school supplies in Regina were (from l): Marilyn Lorence, Jacquie Perigny and Jeanie Lunney, shown here with Chris Keyes, Principal of Seven Stones Community School.

It's time once again for reading, writing and arithmetic as another school year is in full swing.

While some students purchased school supplies such as pens, highlighters, erasers and duo tangs well before September, for others, economic realities make those purchases very difficult if not impossible.

In order to help ensure kids get a great start to the school year, the SaskTel Pioneers once again supplied 'powerpacks' to students in selected Saskatchewan schools in three communities.

"In Melfort, we partnered with the Salvation Army and an organization called Partners to End Poverty," said Pioneer member Kathy Fidyk. "We provided the backpacks, which were filled with supplies from our members. Then all three organizations came together to pack them!"

Dorianne Urquart looked after the project in Saskatoon, where creation of these powerpacks has become a tradition this time of year.

"We filled 350 packpacks and handed them out to three different schools (St. Francis, Howard Coad and Bishop Klein)," said Dorianne. "We buy the supplies in bulk and have them delivered to the

Customer Relationship Centre, where our volunteers fill the backpacks. The supplies are paid for by fundraisers we do throughout the summer and into September.”

It’s a strategy that has worked very well.

“We’ve been doing this project in Saskatoon for over a decade,” said Dorianne. “It’s always been a huge success!”

A total of \$1,567 was also raised this year for school supplies in Regina, where 80 backpacks were distributed to four schools (Seven Stones Community School, St. Augustine, Dr. George Ferguson and Glen Elm).

Three Pioneers (former SaskTel employees Marilyn Lorence, Jacquie Perigny and Jeanie Lunney) divided and packaged up the boxes of supplies and personally delivered them to each school..

“This is such a wonderful initiative, and speaks to our ongoing support of community, youth and education,” said Darrell Liebrecht, Pioneer Manager. “We would like to thank everyone who donated or took part in helping students in our communities.”