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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Pioneers Spark Change in New Orleans**

Pioneers will ignite a spark of change in New Orleans when they volunteer to help the city in its continuing effort to recover from Hurricane Katrina.

More than 800 Pioneers volunteers will visit New Orleans February 26-28 for their Annual Meeting, and while there will do what they do best – make a difference in a local community.

“We feel privileged to be able to give back to the people of New Orleans,” said Pioneers President Marty Lee. “We were there providing relief immediately after Hurricane Katrina and have been looking forward to coming back and doing even more for this great city.”

Pioneers will volunteer in a variety of ways, from donating backpacks filled with school supplies to grade-school students to sprucing up and revitalizing community areas such as parks and playgrounds. The Pioneers will conduct their volunteer efforts in the Lower Ninth Ward, an area that was devastated by Katrina.

During their almost 100-year heritage, the Pioneers volunteer network has served hundreds of millions of hours in hometowns across the United States and Canada. They will continue that legacy in New Orleans.

Pioneers is the world's largest corporate volunteer organization. Founded in 1911 as the Telephone Pioneers of America, the membership is now more than 620,000 strong — men and women committed to serving our communities in the United States, Canada and beyond.

As long as there's a need, no matter how large or small, Pioneers answer the call for help in every way imaginable.

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