



## SkyBest Fiber Enabling Telework Options

As more communities come online with fiber services, they are attracting working professionals who now have the option of dual work settings. Allegheny County native Jonathan Halsey, who lives and works in Winston-Salem, experienced the strength of SkyBest's fiber network during the Covid lockdown in 2020 while staying with his parents who lived near Piney Creek. "I was amazed that we actually had three separate Zoom meetings going on in a single household with no interruptions," he said. "Fast forward, I never would've bought this little house in Cherry Lane had SkyBest fiber expansion not been in the works."



While Halsey lives in Forsyth County and is based primarily at his office as a philanthropic advisor with The Winston-Salem Foundation, he sometimes works remotely on a Friday or Monday at his 'little house' in Cherry Lane that is adjacent to his great-grandmother's farm. "It's right off the (Blue Ridge) Parkway, and it takes me 70 minutes from my home in Winston," Halsey said. With deep family ties to this area, Halsey's mother Barbara remembers taking a taxi to Cherry Lane from Sparta as a youngster to visit her grandmother. His property includes a separate guest space that includes an office he uses for remote work and can meet real-time with his peers using Zoom or other meeting apps. "Being able to work up here occasionally over the last few months has been a DREAM!"

In this same community, Halsey shared that two of his neighbors are also taking advantage of the new SkyBest service to incorporate remote work into their schedules. Kristin St. Martin accepted a new art position with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools to teach virtually three days a week. Occupational therapist April Brady Mangum with Guilford County Schools plans to work from her Cherry Lane home on Mondays.

The hometown touch of a local service provider was also noteworthy to Halsey's experience with SkyBest when he applied for fiber services. "From their professionalism, kindness, technical solutions and quality of work, I can't say enough good things about Zach (Davis), Katie (Eldreth), and Hadden (Williams)."

## FRS Scholarship Program Continues Online Application in 2023



If you have a son or daughter graduating from high school in the spring of 2023, he or she may be eligible for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship sponsored locally by SkyLine Membership Corporation.

In 2023, the FRS will award one-year scholarships in each geographic region of the NTCA membership (including the service area of SkyLine/SkyBest) to graduating high school seniors whose families are served by NTCA member organizations. For each FRS general scholarship, FRS provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTCA member company provides \$500. The FRS has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships since its inception, empowering rural students throughout the country to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences.

In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships\*

- Diana Jo Dryer Memorial Scholarship - Sponsored by INDATEL Services
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- JSI Scholarships
- TMS Scholarships
- Roger Cox Memorial Scholarship

\*Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Project Star, L to R: Kala Johnson, Myla Farmer, Cristy Houck and Edward Hinson



BROCC, L to R: Edward Hinson, Karen Powell, Kala Johnson, Josh Crumpton, Brantley Davis, Hallie Grubb and Allyson Hart

## Making Christmas Brighter for Those in Need

During the 2022 Christmas holiday season, SkyLine employees gathered their time and resources to help support area community members in need. As sponsors of the Appalachian Senior Programs' Project Star for the past 20 consecutive years, SkyLine employees were able to sponsor 25 senior citizens that needed some additional support this year. SkyLine employees also sponsored 14 children through BROCC (Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission), a program that collectively provides Christmas gifts to children in need. We also want to take the time to thank you, our members, for your efforts in supporting those in need throughout our community the entire year.

## NEED TO CONTACT US?

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCAL  
118  
TOLL-FREE  
1-800-759-2226

### REPAIR SERVICE, 24/7

LOCAL  
611  
TOLL-FREE  
1-877-475-9546

Additional Local Repair Service Numbers:

ALLEGHANY  
336-372-4444  
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

ASHE  
336-982-3111  
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

AVERY  
898-9250

WATAUGA  
297-4811

JOHNSON  
739-4500

LENOIR  
929-2872

### INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE  
1-866-759-7591

### WORTH NOTING:

SkyLine Closes for the Holidays  
New Year's Day –  
Monday, January 2

### STAFF:

Kim Shepherd  
Chief Executive Officer  
Brian Tester  
Chief Operations Officer  
Angie Poe  
Customer Service Manager  
Jamey Jenkins  
Retail Sales Manager  
Edward Hinson  
Chief Marketing & Sales Officer



www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest

According to the FRS, more than two-thirds of rural Americans with postsecondary degrees never return to their rural communities, so this program gives particular emphasis to those students who plan to return to their community following college. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Applicants must be children of SkyLine members or SkyBest customers who subscribe to either company's facilities-based services.
- Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and reside full-time with their parents(s) in the companies' service area.
- Applicants must have at least a C grade-point-average (GPA).
- Applicants must be accepted to an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.
- Applicants must express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.
- Applications must be sponsored by SkyLine, an NTCA-member company.

Note: Children of SkyLine employees or directors are not eligible for this scholarship.

The FRS, in cooperation with NTCA — The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing and understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth. If any SkyLine-sponsored students are named winners, they will be announced in May, in conjunction with area high school awards day programs.

Visit [www.FRS.org/student](http://www.FRS.org/student) for full instructions on how to create an account and for all necessary materials required. If you have additional questions about the FRS Scholarship, please contact Edward Hinson at SkyLine's corporate offices at 1-336-876-6302.

### SkyChange Round-up



We are so grateful to members and customers who have signed up for SkyChange, our round-up program that seeks to assist area non-profits that help those in need throughout our community. If you've been thinking of

signing up to support this charitable program, we welcome your participation!

SkyChange allows customers of SkyLine/SkyBest to round up their monthly bill to the next whole-dollar amount. The money generated from the round-up is, in turn, distributed to programs assisting those in need throughout our community. Customer bills will reflect a line item showing the monthly round-up donation.

To sign up for SkyChange today, call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226 or visit [www.skybest.com/skychange](http://www.skybest.com/skychange).

**2023 Calendars Are Available at SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers — while they last!**

## SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation Statement of Nondiscrimination

SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

### Recipe of the Month

## Fat-Free Sugar-Free Pie

#### Ingredients:

- ¼ cup boiling water
- 1 small box sugar-free strawberry jello
- 2 (8-oz.) cartons light strawberry yogurt
- 1 small carton Light Cool Whip
- 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 1 small fat-free graham cracker crust pie shell

#### Instructions:

Dissolve sugar-free Jello in boiling water. Mix the Jello/water into the 2 containers of yogurt and mix well. Add the fresh fruit and then mix in the Cool Whip. Pour into the pie crust and chill for 1 hour.

*Note: You can do this with any flavor Jello, yogurt and fruit. Example: lime jello, Key Lime yogurt and kiwi.*

Recipe submitted by Holly Walls of Ashe County

# Happy New Year!

From the Board of Directors and Staff of SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications



# \$24.95/mo.

*No Contract. No Upfront Costs.*

**SKYBEST.COM 1-800-759-2226**

\*Some restrictions apply. SkyBest internet subscribers will pay only \$14.95 per month.