



Windstream Expands Charitable Platform With Iowa Education Connections

\$70,000 to be Awarded to Iowa Organizations

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 26, 2010 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN) today announced the inception of its Iowa Education Connections program, a community giving initiative aimed at enhancing educational opportunities at schools and charitable organizations in Iowa through funding for technology upgrades.

Windstream will award \$70,000 to educational programs at schools and non-profit organizations that impact Iowa's communities.

An individual or community member may nominate an organization for Iowa Education Connections. Nominated organizations will be notified by Windstream and encouraged to submit an online application. Organizations not nominated can still apply for the Iowa Education Connections program. The deadline to apply for the program is September 3. Eligibility, nomination and application information can be found online at <http://educonnect.windstream.com>.

Eight finalists will be chosen in October and a public online vote will determine the top four organizations to be awarded charitable donations from Windstream, with three runner-up organizations to receive \$15,000 each and one grand prize winner to receive \$25,000.

"We are thrilled to introduce Iowa Education Connections and have the opportunity to connect with the Windstream community in Iowa," said Ric Crane, Windstream's Chief Marketing Officer. "Our standing commitment to educational enhancement through technology donations is important to Windstream, and we look forward to furthering that initiative in the newest addition to our coverage area."

Windstream's mobile tour, called The Lifetime Tour, will be promoting Iowa Education Connections throughout the state the week of July 26 with stops in Grinnell, Knoxville and Newton. The Lifetime Tour, featuring Windstream's vintage 1953 green pick-up truck, also will travel to Manchester on Friday, July 30, to participate in RAGBRAI® festivities. Visit www.lifetimetour.com for more information on The Lifetime Tour.

About Windstream

Windstream Corp. (Nasdaq:WIN) is an S&P 500 company with about \$4 billion in annual revenues. Windstream provides phone, high-speed internet and high-definition digital TV services to customers in 23 states. The company also offers a wide range of IP-based voice and data service and advanced phone systems and equipment to businesses and government agencies. For more information about Windstream, visit www.windstream.com.

The Windstream Corporation logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=7044>

CONTACT: Windstream Corporation
Media Contact:
Erin Ascione
501.748.7368
erin.ascione@windstream.com