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RiverStreet Networks' Fiber Broadband Celebration in King and Queen County

King and Queen County, Virginia - RiverStreet Networks, a leading provider of telecommunication and broadband services, announces the successful completion of their Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Network in King and Queen County, VA. A Fiber Broadband Celebration, held on November 9, 2023, at the King and Queen Library, marked a significant achievement for the community and the company.

In 2019, RiverStreet Networks collaborated with King and Queen County for an ambitious fiber build project to bring advanced broadband network services to residential and business customers. Demonstrating a commitment to utilizing cutting-edge technology, RiverStreet has deployed state-of-the-art platforms in the infrastructure, ensuring a seamless and high-performance internet experience for all users.

The King and Queen County Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Project represented a substantial endeavor, positioning King and Queen County as the first county in Virginia to undergo a comprehensive fiber build. This initiative guarantees that every resident in the county now has access to fiber internet comparable to that of major cities. Covering approximately 575 route miles and connecting 4,236 locations, the project incurred a total cost slightly exceeding \$22 million.

Funding for the project included \$14.6 million from grants, \$3.8 million from the county, \$5.8 million from DHCD/VATI, and \$5 million from FCC CAF II Auction Funding. Over 30% of homes and businesses subscribe and enjoy enhanced internet speeds.

The King and Queen County FTTH Project was completed in February 2023, prompting the Fiber Broadband Project Celebration. This event brought together local government officials, business leaders, and RiverStreet representatives to reflect the FTTH Network's positive impact on the community.

The completion of this county-wide fiber network expansion represents a significant boost to the economic and educational development of King and Queen County. With fast and reliable internet access, local businesses can thrive, students can access digital resources for education, and residents can easily access telehealth services.

"Today, we celebrate a giant leap forward in connecting King and Queen County to the world of technology. High-speed internet is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity for education, business, healthcare, and communication. RiverStreet is proud to have played a pivotal role in making this transformation

possible. I am proud to say on behalf of our board, management, and employees - Mission Accomplished," said Eric Cramer, President and CEO of RiverStreet.

The celebration included two check presentations. The county was given its first monthly revenue share check from RiverStreet Networks with an agreement for its contribution. RiverStreet proposed a percentage share of collected broadband revenue tied to the customer take rate upon reaching a specific adoption threshold on their network. That first threshold of 30% was achieved in September of this year. The second check presentation was a \$5K grant award from the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) for the Walkerton Community Fire Association. RiverStreet worked in conjunction to apply for the grant and also provided a \$500 required match for the award. FRS is a non-profit arm of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association.

"This is one of the first projects of its kind in the Commonwealth, achieving the milestone of universally constructing fiber to all unserved regions in the county. It is truly a remarkable achievement. I hope that future projects look to this one as an example. For exemplary communications, coordination and partnership," said Bill Curtis, Assistant Director of DHCD.

RiverStreet Networks recently received a Smart Rural Community award for its involvement in the King and Queen Fiber-to-the-Home Project. This initiative involved collaborating with the Rappahannock Tribe to provide connectivity to the Tribal Center in the county, linking numerous tribal members. The project was made possible through a \$682K CARES Act Grant, further supported by a \$922K contribution from RiverStreet Networks. The Smart Rural Community designation is awarded to noteworthy projects in rural communities by local broadband providers like RiverStreet Networks. The program is also a flagship initiative of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association.

RiverStreet is dedicated to providing the best telecommunications and broadband services to rural and underserved communities across North Carolina and Virginia. The FTTH Network in King and Queen County is a testament to the company's commitment to improving the lives of those it serves.

About RiverStreet Networks:

RiverStreet Networks is a leading telecommunications and broadband service provider focusing on bringing high-speed internet connectivity to underserved areas. With a mission to connect communities, empower businesses, and enhance the quality of life through cutting-edge technology, RiverStreet Networks is committed to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that all residents have access to the benefits of a connected world. Riverstreet Networks serves customers in over 68 counties in 5 states, primarily in North Carolina and Virginia.

For more information about RiverStreet Networks and their services, please visit www.myriverstreet.net.

