



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BEK Communications “BEK Cares” Initiative in Response to COVID-19 Creates a Connection to the World for Rural Students and Work-From-Home Residents**

**March 25, 2020, Steele, ND** - BEK Communications (BEK) is proud to announce the immediate impact of its “BEK Cares” initiative for the residents of its service areas and beyond.

BEK made a commitment one week ago to double its customer’s internet speeds at no charge in preparation for the long-term likelihood of distance learning for K-12 and increasing work-from-home demands. BEK will have finalized the speed upgrade to over 97% of its 10,000+ customers by the end of this week.

Along with speed upgrades, BEK committed to provide Lightband internet service free-of-charge for four (4) months to those living within its service area who were not current Lightband subscribers. Through the fielding of over 2,000 calls, it was the commitment to our communities that has allowed for Lightband service to be provided to an average of 25 new households each day, with installation of service being completed with 72-96 hours.

There has also been a monumental demand for products and services to allow employers the flexibility to have their staff work-from-home. In response to this demand, BEK has provided over 338 new connections to its customers via video conferencing, UC-One and VOIP conference bridges. One organization that has expanded its use of BEK’s services is the City of Valley City.

“We have been utilizing BEK’s business services for years, however with the current COVID-19 pandemic, we quickly found out how important they truly were,” said Dave Carlsrud, President, Valley City Commission. “We are very appreciative of BEK’s commitment in helping the City of Valley City to continue providing necessary services to its residents.”



BEK's commitment to keep its customers and community connected has never been greater. We want all of our customers and community members to know we are here for you. We are ready to take your call with questions at 888-475-2361 or [bekcomm@bektel.com](mailto:bekcomm@bektel.com). BEK continues to monitor COVID-19 updates closely and will follow recommended practices as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other state and local public health agencies.

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#### **About BEK Communications Cooperative**

BEK Communications Cooperative, founded in 1952, is a communications services company headquartered in Steele, North Dakota. In the last 68 years, the company has grown to include branch offices in Bismarck and Valley City and now serves nearly 11,000 customers. BEK provides fiber-based voice, Gigabit broadband and IP television services; cloud-based security, automation, surveillance, voice and storage services; and hospital and business communications solutions in North Dakota. The company also provides statewide sports broadcasting and national news reports on the BEK TV Network, and television content across North Dakota through KNDM, KNDB, KRDK.

BEK emphasizes their fast, friendly, local service experience and a broad portfolio of high-quality communications, broadcasting and advertising services.