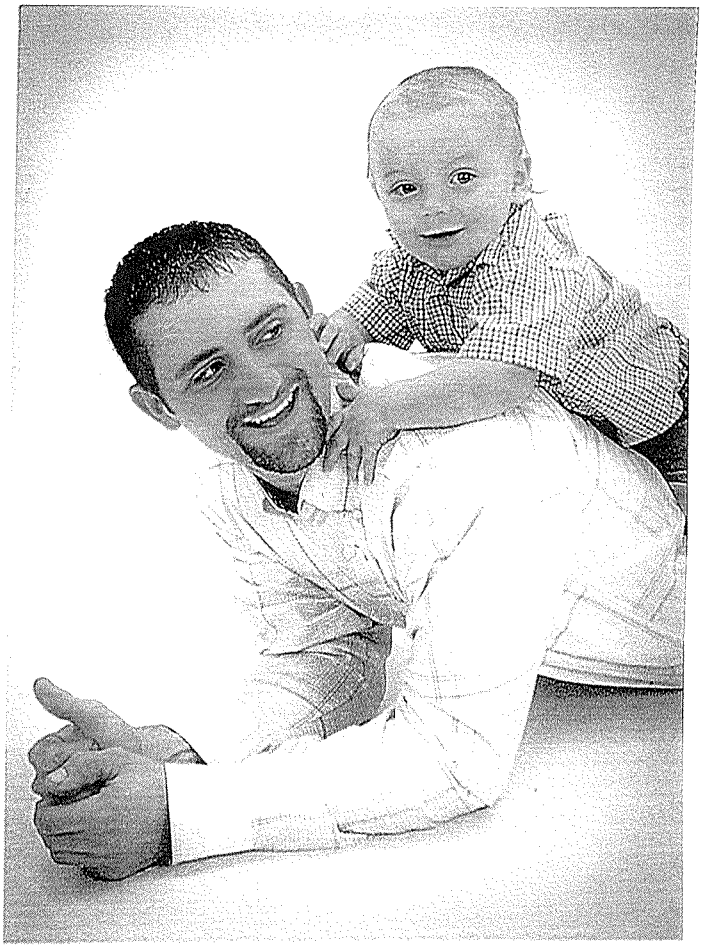
I was born and raised in a small community. I have been married to my husband Steve for 30 years, we have two children Kirah 29 and Seth 24 and five grandchildren Austin 9, Jared 5, Raelyn 4, Emma 4 and Easton 2. My children were also raised in a small community and my grandchildren are being raised in the same manner. I have worked for Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for 27 years and I am currently the office manager. It's vital that the rural communities receive the same opportunities as urban areas, we need to be able to utilize the newest and fastest technologies to be productive.

LaTonda Stout



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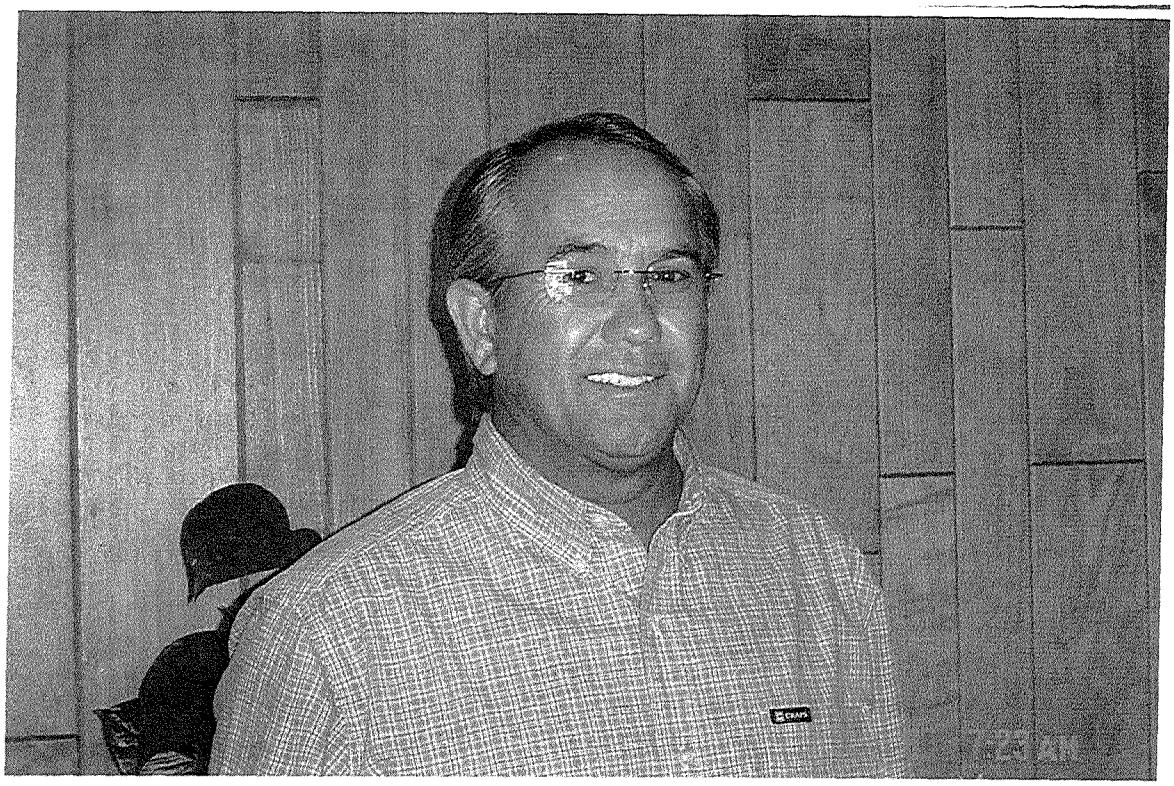
My name is Rick Hurt and I have been working for Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc for 31 years. I was raised in Tulia, Texas and am 55 years old. My wife's name is Cindy Hurt, age 50 and she was born and raised in Tulia. Together we have 3 children, Heather Cooper, 30 years old, Lizzie Hurt, 25 years old, and Taylor Hurt, 15 years old. They all three were raised in Tulia and live in Tulia, Texas. We have one granddaughter, Savannah Cooper, 8 years old.



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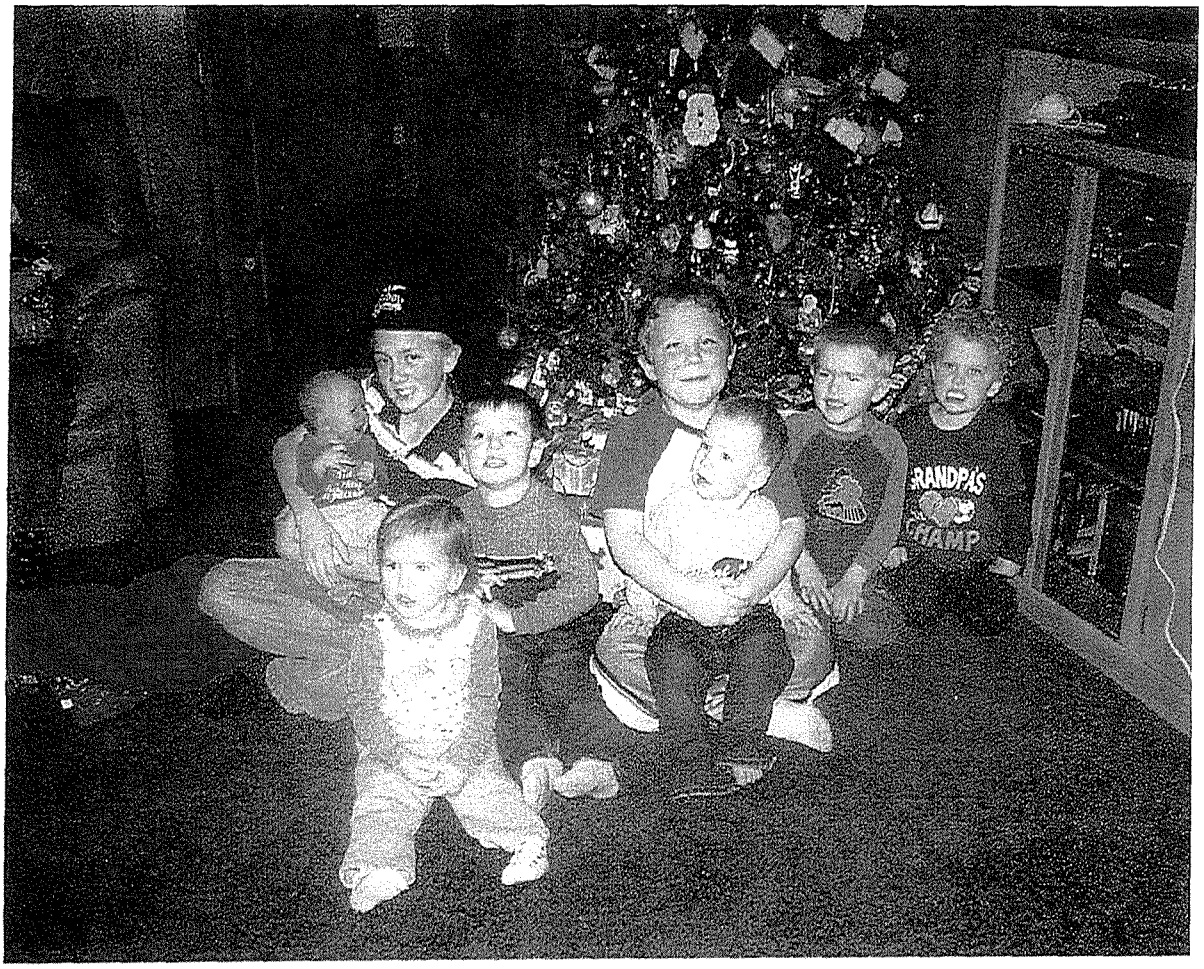
Lucy Ann Pohlmeier
Accountant

I have been married to my spouse, Walter Pohlmeier for 38 years. We have four children, Kalina (36), Karmen (34), Shawn (32) and Bryce (27). Our children have degrees from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Going from a small rural area to a large university had its challenges, but our children did very well. Kalina, Karmen, and Shawn are married and have given us 8 grandchildren, Justin (5), Aidan (3), Lucas (1), Zane (5), Sadah (3), Kaden (6mos.), Payton (7), and Dylan (4). We have one adopted- of- the- heart grandchild, Bretton (14), and a new grandbaby due to arrive in January 2012.

Walt and I grew up in the rural agriculture area, Nazareth, Texas, and so did our children. All of our children live and work in the state of Texas. Two of our children live in a rural community, one in a city and one in a metropolis. The opportunities to be self-sufficient and self -reliant in growing up in Rural America shows in the character of our children and the lives they live today in the city and other rural areas.

I have worked in the accounting field for 40 years and in the telecommunications industry for 20 years. For 38 years Walt was a self-employed and in 2007 he became employed as a dispatcher for a large trucking firm. Our employment requires the most sophisticated technology available every day. Even though our family enjoys coming home to the country for respite from the fast paced lifestyle of the city, they all need the advanced technology available to be able to keep pace with projects at work and to stay in touch with their world.

Please reconsider your position on the National Broadband Plan and realize that the same quality of technology that you want in the urban areas is needed in the rural areas as well. In fact, it is imperative that Rural America have advanced technology in order to conduct the business of providing food and raw materials for the world population to be able to eat and have clothing.

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