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Phone Companies Help Get Broadband to Poor

... The Alliance for Public Technology is taking a different route to increasing broadband access. Last week it began to collect stories about how broadband has changed people's lives and give them to policymakers. The alliance is giving prizes up to \$1,000 for the best stories, said campaign director Joy Howell. A mother with a son serving in the military in Iraq has written about how she can stay connected with her child and see videos he sends. A cancer patient was able to travel while his partner maintained a home-based business on the road with a wireless broadband connection.

"It just like this magical thing," Howell said. The stories sound "Real and authentic," but the alliance will fact check and ask contest entrants to sign affidavits to their stories' truth before awarding prizes, she said. The aim is to document real examples of how broadband is a boon to people, not just a business investment, Howell said. –Anne Veigle

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