



United States Department
of Agriculture

5975 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

Phone: 317.290.3100
TDD: 317.290.3343
Fax: 317.290.3095
www.rurdev.usda.gov/in/index.html

News Release

Contact: Kelly M. Barmann

USDA SUPPORTS FOUNDATION'S EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

Auburn (#02-20; 6-17-2002): USDA Rural Development announced today that the educational efforts of an Auburn foundation will receive funding. USDA has awarded the Dean V. Kruse Foundation, which operates the World War II Museum and the Classic Car Museum in Auburn, a \$50,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant.

The Kruse Foundation, incorporated in 1999, will use this USDA grant to buy equipment for the two museums. A major outreach effort will be made by museum staff to local schools K-12 and higher educational institutions so that these students will have the opportunity to learn more about our country through the museums' entertaining and educational exhibits. The staff at the foundation will be expanded to include historians and others who will be able to deliver quality programs at the museums.

Joseph Steele, USDA Rural Development Business Programs Director, presented a check today for the grant to Dean Kruse, Foundation President, at a gathering to celebrate the funding. Steele said, "Not all civics lessons are received in a classroom. Many important lessons are learned in facilities such as these museums. They will not only tell stories about America's past but they will also serve to underscore important American values such as hard work, courage and creativity. USDA is proud to be a partner with the Kruse Foundation in this endeavor."

It is the goal of the Dean V. Kruse Foundation, Inc. to celebrate America's heritage by providing the public with an entertaining, educational experience focused on the preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of historical treasures, civics lessons and research.

Kruse added, "On behalf of the Dean V. Kruse Foundation, Inc. we want to thank the USDA Rural Development for the grant of \$50,000 to the WWII Victory Museum and the Classic Car Museum. We are excited to be partners with USDA to bring these multi-generational museums alive through multi-sensory, multi-media experiences utilizing state of the art technologies. These museums will be dedicated to preserving the past and educating the future. Together we will ensure these historic treasures will create an understanding of history while instilling a patriotic view of those who made America what it is today. We look forward to serving our visitors in the near future."

USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grants assist public bodies and nonprofit organizations finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private businesses located in rural areas. Last year USDA awarded 10 Rural Business Enterprise Grants for over \$1.6 million to nonprofit organizations around Indiana. This grant to the Kruse Foundation is the most recent example of how USDA Rural Development is investing its resources in DeKalb County. Since 1994, USDA Rural Development has invested nearly \$20 million in the county.

Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water facility funding, business and industry loans, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. Questions concerning USDA Rural Development services in this area can be directed to USDA Rural Development, 104 East Park Drive, Albion, IN 46701-1437; phone 260-636-7682, extension 4.