

USDA



Rural Development

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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES ELEVEN POINT VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, INC. \$35,300 GRANT TOWARDS RENOVATIONS

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$35,300 to Eleven Point Valley Community Center, Inc. on Monday, September 29. The Rural Development Community Facilities Grant will help finance electrical upgrades plus heating and air conditioning improvements for the community center which serves a population of 10,344 area residents.



Front row, from left: Heather Peugh of West Plains, representing Eighth District Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-Cape Girardeau); USDA State Director Morris Westfall; USDA Area Director Mark Hultgren; community center board members Lorene Earls, Jerri Hollis, Shaw, Donna Mooringham and Wanda Daves. Back row: David Rauch of Springfield, representing U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Lebanon, Mo.); USDA Area Specialist Danny Campbell of West Plains; USDA Area Specialist Mark Dethrow; and community center board members Paula Miller, Karen Kepplinger, Eugene Miller and Wes Daves. *Photo courtesy of the West Plains Daily Quill.*

“Today’s announcement highlights the local commitment of the Eleven Point Valley Community Center and the leadership of the USDA’s Rural Development staff. I commend both for their dedication and hard

work which have made this project a reality. The entire region will benefit from the renovations that are being made to this historic and vitally important facility,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond.

“Oregon County is home to a caring community whose neighbors come together often for social reasons and the Eleven Point Valley Community Center is a key facility. The improvements made possible by this grant are going to create a great benefit for the people who use the community center. I am grateful to USDA Rural Development for identifying this opportunity and I am glad to have the support of the Missouri congressional delegation in the effort as I work on behalf of Southern Missouri,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Roger “Dusty” Shaw expressed his appreciation, “The board of directors would like to thank Rural Development for the grant funds allowing us to finish renovations to our local community center which is utilized as our public library, serves as a polling facility for local

elections, and may be rented for various local community functions. The community center originally was a school house built in the 1930's by WPA workers and its membership includes the original school district which covers approximately an 8 mile radius."

Westfall said, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Daniel Campbell, Area Specialist, at 3210 Hoover Drive, West Plains, MO 65775-3527 or by calling (417) 256-7117 extension 4 or by email to daniel.campbell@mo.usda.gov.

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