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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$13,920 COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANT TO PURCHASE AND UPDATE EQUIPMENT

USDA Rural Development State Director Greg Branum was joined by Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson to present a mock check for \$13,920 to the Texas County Food Pantry on August 28, 2007. The funding was received from the USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Grant program. These funds were used to buy and install a new freezer and replace/update other essential equipment. The Texas County Food Pantry is a non-profit organization serving the 23,003 citizens of Texas County that require assistance. It was opened in 1989 and currently has a clothing/thrift store and food distribution center among some of the programs operated through the Food Pantry.



Front Row

Tim Rickabaugh, Rural Development Area Director; Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director; Sister Clare Reinert, Executive Director Texas County Food Pantry; Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson; Hubert Caton, Board Member; Naomi Campbell, Secretary; David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's office; Austin Owens, Senator Bond's office; Robert Strickland, Rural Development Manager

Second row:

Guy Ceplina, Board Member; Cindy Haley, Patient Advocate; John Randall, Food Distribution Manager; Dr Charles Mueller; Carolyn Harper, Volunteer; Norma Williams, Volunteer; Joyce Campbell, Secretary; Jack McElroy; Reverend Jeff Moore, Treasurer; Robert Joens, Board President

"Hunger is a domestic problem throughout our country that has long been the focus of my efforts representing the Eighth Congressional District, as it was for Bill Emerson during his service. I am very pleased that USDA Rural Development is rewarding the efforts of the Texas County Food Pantry to facilitate the generosity, kindness, and philanthropy of so many in Southern Missouri who willingly lend a hand to their neighbor in need," Emerson said.

"The Board, Staff and Volunteers of the Texas County Food Pantry are most appreciative for the equipment financed by USDA Rural Development. This funding has provided the necessary equipment to carry out our mission of improving the quality of life by distributing food to the hungry in Texas County," said Sister Clare Reinert, Texas County Food Pantry Executive Director

“Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s commitment to the future of rural communities,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or can contact Robert Strickland, Rural Development Manager, at the Houston Office, 6726B South Highway 63, Houston, MO 65483 or by calling (417) 967-2028 ext 3.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).