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# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES NORTH STONE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY, INC. WITH EQUIPMENT

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a mock check to the North Stone County Food Pantry in Crane, MO on Friday, May 2 in the amount of \$2,000. The Rural Development Community Facilities Grant along with \$700 from the Food Pantry's own funds purchased a 3-door cooler for storage of perishable food items.

"I'm so happy to see federal dollars going to the North Stone County Food Pantry through the Rural Development grant program, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "This grant will allow them to better serve their community as they work to ensure that families in the area have food on their tables."

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt said, "The North Stone County Food Pantry provides a vital service to the residents of my district and I am glad the USDA Rural Development recognized their service. This cooler means more than increased capacity and storage. It means more food for hungry families and I want to thank the USDA for their help."

President Charlotte Houser expressed her appreciation, "With the help of wonderful volunteers and coordinators, the food pantry currently serves about 90 families each month from the communities in northern Stone County. With this new cooler, we plan to expand our perishable items to include yogurt and other dairy items. We also receive food donations from local churches and organizations and are able to provide emergency food assistance as necessary.



Front Row Left to Right: Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director of Rural Development; Stacy Burks, District Office Director for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; Dorothy Knuffer, Food Coordinator; Charlotte Houser, Board President; Eleanor Merrill, Board Treasurer; Madeleine Patterson, Clothing Coordinator;

Back Row: Left to Right: David Rauch, District Director for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for U.S. Representative Roy Blunt; Iva Hodson, Board Member; Pat McPherson, Exofficio and Case Worker; Arline Britton, Board Member; Tim Rickabaugh, Springfield Area Director of Rural Development

The new cooler will definitely serve our needs so we can provide better nutrition to our families.”

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development 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.” Westfall added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt 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 Tim Rickabaugh, Area Director, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [tim.rickabaugh@mo.usda.gov](mailto:tim.rickabaugh@mo.usda.gov).

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