



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS RENOVATIONS AT FRIENDLY HEIGHTS

Seniors living at Friendly Heights Apartments in Stanberry are the beneficiaries of a newly renovated apartment complex.

Friendly Heights Apartments, Inc., an elderly rental housing apartment complex, received \$388,000 from USDA Rural Development. The funds were used for improvements to the 20-unit one-bedroom senior citizen apartment complex. USDA Rural Development representatives and Friendly Heights' officers and residents were on hand October 31st for an open house to celebrate the completion of the improvements.

“This is a very, very important thing for Stanberry,” Friendly Heights Manager and Stanberry Mayor Charles Lawson said. He said the money has been used to completely rehabilitate the apartment complex inside and out. Lawson also added, “Friendly Heights is an outstanding complex and a credit to USDA, our Board of Directors and an asset to the community.”



Pictured from left to right are: Jeremy Brady, USDA Rural Development Manager; Jim Guest, Missouri State Representative for District 5; Colleen James, Multi-Family Housing Specialist, USDA Rural Development Missouri State Office; Janie Dunning, Multi-Family Housing Director, USDA Rural Development Missouri State Office; Charles Lawson, Friendly Heights Manager and Stanberry Mayor; Marjorie Carroll, Friendly Heights Board Member; Neal Miller, USDA Rural Development Area Director; and Jim Whorton, Missouri State Representative for District 3.

“Rural Development is pleased to provide this additional funding to improve the accommodations for the senior citizen tenants,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “The improvements include new windows, central heating and air conditioners, new concrete sidewalks and other improvements to meet accessibility requirements.”

Friendly Heights President Ruby Gregory said the improvements make the apartment complex an even more attractive place to live.

“We’re so thankful to the USDA and are so proud of Friendly Heights,” she said.

The Friendly Heights apartments were initially funded through Farmers Home Administration in 1970. A group of residents volunteered their time and formed a non-profit corporation to obtain the federal funds

to build the complex. The 20-unit complex is one of approximately 900 rental projects in 113 of the 114 Missouri counties with approximately 20,000 apartments.

“Funding this kind of project helps meet the needs of the community by providing safe, affordable and modern rental property for our senior citizens,” Branum said.

He also pointed out that these kinds of programs mirror President Bush’s initiatives and exemplify the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities. Branum acknowledged the help of Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Sam Graves for providing funding to USDA Rural Development for such programs.

For more information about Friendly Heights, contact Charles Lawson at (660) 783-0800. Information on other rental projects funded by USDA Rural Development in a particular county is available by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/mfhpage.htm and follow the instructions. Information about the location of rental property, name of complexes, type of apartments (elderly or family), number of apartment units, etc. is available.

For more information about the Rural Rental Housing program or other USDA Rural Development programs, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo or contact Jeremy Brady, Rural Development Manager at Maryville, via e-mail at jeremy.brady@mo.usda.gov; by visiting his office at 502 W. South Hills Drive or by calling (660) 582-7421 Ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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