



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS GASCONADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Acting Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented to Ruth Bock, Administrator of the Gasconade County Health Department a \$9,450 mock check on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at the Health Department Headquarters in Hermann, Missouri. The grant funds will assist with the cost of renovation of the Health Department building. Improvements to the building access, electrical systems, office layout, and public bathroom accessibility were accomplished with local funds and the Rural Development grant award. The renovation updates will allow the Gasconade County Health Department to continue to serve the public from their historic building at 300 Schiller Street.

“These much-needed improvements to the Gasconade County Health Department building will benefit residents greatly. USDA Rural Development and the local leadership should be commended for their commitment to rural health care,” said Senator Kit Bond.

“Grants like this one help meet the needs of rural Missouri,” said U. S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “Improving the physical facilities will improve the quality of services the Gasconade County Health Department can provide, enabling them to better protect and promote the health and safety of Hermann citizens.”



Pictured left to right; Jo Anderson – Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Charlie Feagan - Board Member; Shirley Dunne - Board Membe; Ruth Bock – Administrator of Gasconade County Health Department; Lynne Hesemann - Board Member Dan Minks – USDA Rural Development Manage; Judy Toedtman - Chairperson Board of Directors; Jean Birk - Board Membe; Max Aubuchon –Northern District Commissioner Gasconade County; Janie Dunning – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director; Kelly Gregory – USDA Rural Development Area Director; Llona Weiss – Field Representative Senator McCaskill’s Office; Jenni Riegel – Southern Region Director; Congressman Kenny Hulshof’s Office; Tony Benz – State Senator Frank Barnitz’s Office

“This is a great example of how the federal government can partner with the local community to fund important projects like the renovation of this historical building,” said U. S. Representative Kenny Hulshof. “I will continue to work with the USDA and local leaders in our efforts to improve the quality of life for families in Missouri.”

“USDA is happy to be able to assist Gasconade County Health Department with funds for building improvements,” said Dunning. “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.” Other officials attending from USDA were: Kelly Gregory Area Director from Clinton, and Dan Minks, Rural Development Manager, Jefferson City, MO.

Community Facilities assistance can be by direct loans, grants, or guaranteed loans through a conventional lender to help communities meet the basic needs of its citizens, as well as build a stronger, more vibrant community. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, and non-profit corporations which meet specific criteria.

Representing Gasconade County Health Department were: Ruth Bock, Administrator; Judy Toedtmann, Chairman of Board of Directors; Jean Birk, Shirley Dunne, Lynne Hesemann, and Charlie Feagan Board members. Jo Anderson, Public Health Service Coordinator represented Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Anyone seeking more information about the USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Dan Minks, Rural Development Manager, 1911 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101 at 573-893-8504, ext. # 4 or dan.minks@mo.usda.gov by e-mail

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