



# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$29,000 TO HALF CENTURY CLUB, INC.

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$29,000 to Half Century Club, Inc. on December 18, 2008. The check represents a USDA Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$29,000 for funding the purchase of commercial kitchen equipment at the new senior center.

U.S Senator Kit Bond said, "The new senior center in Humansville will provide an important community service. I applaud the USDA and local leadership for investing in facility details such as new kitchen equipment which will help with providing meals to seniors and other area residents."

"I commend the Half Century Club, Inc. for being awarded federal funds from the USDA Rural Development program. This is a tremendous investment into the community. It will provide the new senior center with much needed kitchen equipment and will allow them to more efficiently meet the needs of their clients," said Congressman Ike Skelton.

Board President Arlene Lear expressed her appreciation, "The Half Century Club appreciates Rural Development's financial assistance for the senior center's kitchen equipment. The center is utilized for different local community events and the commercial equipment is definitely an improvement. It will allow us to increase the number of meals prepared for those coming to the center for lunch and will be a great asset when utilizing the center for receptions and other events that have a need to include food preparation."

"This project mirrors President Bush's initiative and exemplifies the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities," said Westfall. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Ike



Picture: Left to Right Front Row: Mark Hultgren, Area Director; Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director; Arlene Lear, Board President; Deloris King, Senior Center Administrator

Back Row: Ralph Stephens, Board Member; Melissa Richardson, Field Representative for Congressman Ike Skelton; Loretta Stephens, Board Member; Hollie Elliott, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Bond; David Rauch, District Director for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Leonard Walburn, Vice President ; Mel Tilden, Board Member

Skelton have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

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 Leon Melvin, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802-9109 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [leon.melving@mo.usda.gov](mailto:leon.melving@mo.usda.gov).

**Committed to the future of rural communities**

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