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NEWS RELEASE

LUCINDA WILLIAMS CELEBRATES THE DREAM OF A NEW HOME THANKS TO GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, joined in the celebration of Lucinda Williams reaching the “dream” of a new home on Friday, May 16, 2008! The celebration included recognition and certificates of appreciation to many generous donors and volunteers who helped with the construction of the new home.



The community donated over \$40,000 in labor and materials. The project was organized by Lisa Jolicoeur after attending a church service one Sunday and observing a fellow resident in need. A simple act of kindness snowballed throughout the entire community. The donated materials and labor coupled with the USDA Rural Development loan funds resulted in the construction of a new home for Lucinda Williams.

“Today’s announcement highlights the Clever community commitment and leadership of the USDA Rural Development staff,” said Senator Kit Bond. “We commend the Clever community and express our appreciation to the USDA Rural Development staff for their dedication and hard work for making Lucinda Williams’s new home a reality.”

Ms. Jolicoeur, a member of the Timber Creek Assembly Church in Battlefield and a resident of Clever was the catalyst that orchestrated the donations and volunteers for the endeavor of fulfilling the “dream” of a new home for Ms. Williams. A large number of church members assisted with the construction by donating countless hours of work. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented by USDA Rural Development on behalf of Ms. Williams to the following church members: Lisa and Keith Jolicoeur, Paul and Deb Wiles, Paul Kirk, Mike Land, Allen Lorton, Chad and Tiffany Waisner, Andy and Denise Arndt, Ron and Kerry Beaman, Zack Crosswhite, David Kellough, Tim Steinert, Dwight Cooper, Jeff and Inge Ward, Brenda Maples, Stephanie Walters, Kristine Brickey, Lisa and David Dupree, Andrea Fulks, Keven Worthington, Jason Westp, Todd Rice, Jody Erwin, Felicia Creed, Mark and Joyce Lancaster, Summer Speer, Jason Hicks, Scott and Amber Lewis, Rebekah Holmes, and Sarah Gleason.

Equally important was the generous donations by businesses in the community for materials and supplies including: Wiles Construction, City of Clever, B and B Insulation, State Farm Insurance, Dura-Kast Concrete Products, 84 Lumber, Wiles and Sons HVAC, Cardonza Construction, Country Cottage Roofing, Jeff Delmont, Jared Delmont, Cliff Crawford Concrete, Crawford Concrete, Horgan Plumbing, Julie Ingram, John and Judy Peterson, Johnny and Kathy Monger, and Jim Managan Drafting.

“It is very rewarding to see a community come together to help Ms. Williams with her new home,” said Westfall. “It is truly a tremendous partnership with the many businesses contributing supplies and the donated labor by the Timber Creek Assembly church members. Rural Development is proud to be a partner in this success story.”

Westfall pointed out that June is National Home Ownership Month across America. While the Lisa Jolicoeur’s may not exist for everyone, as they did for Lucinda Williams, the Rural Development agency does have funding available to assist other individuals or families seeking the opportunity to accomplish the “dream” of home ownership. In addition, to the direct funding, the agency also partners with many lenders through the guaranteed housing program to assist with housing financing in rural areas.

Anyone seeking more information about housing programs or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Pat White, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield, Missouri, 65802-09109 or by email to pat.white@mo.usda.gov or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4.

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