



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

16 NORTH COURT STREET, P.O. BOX 470
BOWLING GREEN, MISSOURI 63334-0470

JUNE 21, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Brent Engel, Public Relations
Officer 1-800-748-7636**

Families Receive Keys to Self-Help Housing Program Homes

The not-for-profit North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) and USDA Rural Development presented ceremonial house keys June 21 to eight Montgomery County families who participated in the Self-Help Housing Program.

The ceremony was held in the Fairview Estates subdivision on the northwest side of Montgomery City. Representatives of NECAC, USDA Rural Development, the families and regional dignitaries attended. June is National Home-Ownership Month.

“NECAC is proud of the partnership we have been able to enjoy with USDA Rural Development and families such as these,” said Don Patrick, NECAC President and Chief Executive Officer. “The Self-Help Program has solidified NECAC’s already-strong reputation for delivering quality housing programs and other services. To all of these families we say that NECAC has taken great satisfaction in being your partner on this journey. Once again, we are able to be a catalyst for housing opportunity, growth and stability in our region of Missouri.”

“It’s a tremendous partnership that we’ve enjoyed for a long time and hope to continue for years to come,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development. “You can look down this street and look at the beautiful homes that provided the American dream of home-ownership to people that probably without the program would have never owned a home.

The ceremony was held in the driveway of Self-Help participant Christie Jackson, who said building the houses was hard work, but worthwhile. “I feel very privileged to be able to purchase my own home,” Jackson said. “The kids are all pretty excited. It’s just nice having your own place.”

Other participating families were Jennifer Rich, Christina Duty, Sonya Brandenburg, Tracy and Kerry Huth, Janice Boswell, Debra Hazelwood, and Steve and Amy Hill.

NECAC, which administers the Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grant for USDA Rural Development, is a 12-county area not-for-profit social service, community health and public housing Community Action Agency that serves the low-income, elderly, youth, handicapped and disadvantaged. The agency’s Central Administration Offices are located in Bowling Green, with NECAC County Service Centers operated in each county.

Under the Self-Help program, applicants who meet income and credit guidelines are eligible for low-interest loans through USDA Rural Development. Instead of making a down-payment, the families each spend at least 25 hours a week working as a team with NECAC construction supervisors to build their homes. The families save money by pooling their resources and labor. They then pay off the loans over a specified number of years.



Pictured (from left) are Greg Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development; Denise Derks of the Missouri Department of Economic Development; Sally Pease, USDA Rural Development Specialist; Jacque Barker, USDA Rural Development Manager; Self-Help participants Christie Jackson, Janice and Michelle Boswell, Kerry and Savannah Huth, and Debra Hazelwood; Don Patrick, NECAC President and Chief Executive Officer; and Jenny Riegel, representing U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof. Other participating families were Jennifer Rich, Christina Duty, Sonya Brandenburg, and Steve and Amy Hill.

Since 1998, 41 Self-Help homes have been built under the NECAC-USDA Rural Development partnership in Shelby, Monroe, Randolph and Montgomery counties. On June 20, NECAC and USDA broke ground for two more homes in Randolph County.

NECAC continues to offer lots for sale in the Fairview Estates subdivision outside the Self-Help program. The lots vary from 12,990 square feet to 15,122 square feet, and prices are set accordingly. Buyers may build their own homes on the sites or have a contractor do the work. Proceeds from lot sales will be used for future NECAC development projects.

More information is available by calling NECAC Montgomery County Service Coordinator Kathy Block at 573-564-3606 or visiting the NECAC Montgomery County Service Center at 115 W. Third in Montgomery City.