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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A GRANT TO THE MADISON-WEST MONROE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR MIDDLE GROVE SIREN

On July 3, 2007, USDA Rural Development presented the Madison-West Monroe Fire Protection District with a mock check for \$1,000. The funds will be used towards the purchase of a new storm warning siren system. The Middle Grove community was devastated by the March 12, 2006 tornado thus interest in a warning system began.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill stated, "The tornadoes that tore through Middle Grove last year proved just how fragile life can be. An event like that is the reason why we cannot be too prepared for future threats. I am pleased that this funding will provide a new weather siren to help protect the residents of Middle Grove against future storms."



Pictured left to right: Sharon Woods the Middle Grove school superintendent, Steven Gerrish, Rural Development Manager, Fire Chief Larry Jones, Floyd, Monroe County Presiding Commissioner Donald Simpson (left of Congressman Hulshof), Congressman Kenny Hulshof, Missouri State Director Greg Branum, State Senator Wes Shoemyer, Llona Weiss of Senator Claire McCaskill's office, Sherry Nelson with UMC Extension representing the Monroe County Unmet Needs committee, Mike Fuller of Consolidated Electric Cooperative, and several other individuals and children of the Middle Grove community.

The damage from last year's tornadoes reminds us that proper notification of pending storms is crucial," Congressman Kenny Hulshof stated. "I applaud the local effort to bring all stakeholders, including the federal government, together to obtain this valuable, potentially life-saving equipment."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "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."

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program funds allowed the Madison-West Monroe Fire Protection District to assist the Middle Grove community. Other key partners in the

purchase and installation of the siren system were the citizens of Middle Grove who raised 20% of project costs, the Unmet Needs committee of Monroe County which was formed after the March 12, 2006 tornado, and Alliant Bank of Madison.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Steven Gerrish, at the Moberly Rural Development office, 2995 County Road 1325, Moberly, MO 65270 or call the office at 660-263-7400 ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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