



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS CERTIFICATES TO DEVELOPER AND REALTOR

On Friday, June 15th, USDA Rural Development State Director Greg Branum, along with local Rural Development staff, presented certificates of appreciation to Redmond Properties & Century 21 – 1st Choice Realty in conjunction with National Homeownership month. Also on hand for the presentation were several participants of the Self-Help Housing program and staff from the Ozark Foothills Development Association (OFDA).

"It is truly a great occasion when everyone works together to help rural Americans realize the dream of homeownership. I am very pleased with the relationships formed between USDA Rural Development, OFDA, Redmond Properties and 1st Choice Realty. Most of all, I am extremely proud of the homeowners for all of their hard work and determination," stated Branum.

Redmond Properties and 1st Choice Realty were involved in the development and sale of lots to the participants of Self-Help Housing Program originated by USDA Rural Development and administered by OFDA. Joe Clark of Redmond Properties and Kim King of 1st Choice Realty were present to accept the certificates.

Dr. Greg Batson, Director of Ozark Foothills Development Association, stated, "It has been an honor and privilege for the Ozark Foothills Development Association to be a partner with USDA Rural Development in assisting families realize the dream of homeownership through the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. Without the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program most, possibly all, of the participating families would never have a home to call their own. The USDA Rural Development staff, Mr. Greg Branum, State Director; Mr. Randy Griffith, Single-Family Housing Director; Ms. Pam Anglin, Area Director; Ms. Angie Reynolds, Rural Development Manager; Ms. Kim Allison, Rural Development Specialist have worked diligently to assure that the families and the OFDA receive the resources needed. All persons need an opportunity to achieve success. Mutual Self-Help Housing provides the resources necessary to offer the opportunity for homeownership where it did not exist."



Pictured from left to right: Front Row: Kim Allison - Rural Development Specialist, Pam Anglin - Rural Development Area Director, Angie Reynolds - Rural Development Manager, Kim King - Century 21 1st Choice Realty, Joe Clark - Redmond Properties, Greg Branum - MO Rural Development State Director
Back Row: Greg Batson - Ozark Foothills Development Association, Chad Browning - Self-Help Housing program participant, Skip Hinrichs - Ozark Foothills Development Association, Jerry Warren - Ozark Foothills Development Association

The Self-Help Housing Program provides low and very-low income persons in rural areas the opportunity to build their own homes. Technical guidance is provided for the groups of eligible families and individuals that perform approximately 65 percent of the total construction, with professional work such as site preparation and concrete being sub-contracted out. With a large portion of the work being performed by the families or individuals, they wind up having approximately \$15,000 of 'sweat equity' invested in their homes. The homes are then mortgaged through USDA Rural Development at a low interest rate for 33 years.

Anyone seeking more information about the Rural Development Self-Help Housing program, or any other USDA Rural Development program, may visit the Homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Angie Reynolds, Rural Development Manager, at angie.reynolds@mo.usda.gov or by calling 573-785-9679, extension 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).