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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$8,000 TO WRIGHT COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME

On Wednesday, June 16, 2010, USDA Rural Development Area Director Mark Hultgren presented a Mock Check to the Wright County Children's Home. The check represents a Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the amount of \$8,000 for the purchase of a generator. The Wright County Children's Home, a non-profit organization, provides shelter and support to children between the ages of 6-18 years of age that have been removed from their home due to abuse and neglect and now are in state custody. The generator will aid in the continued operations for this facility to provide safe shelter for these children in Southwest Missouri.



“These funds will help the Wright County Children's Home continue their critical work in providing a safe home for abused and neglected children,” said U.S. Senator Kit bond. “I commend the hard work of all who were involved in securing funds for the new generator and am especially grateful to the members of the local VFW and the other organizations and businesses who are donating their time and talents to make this announcement possible.”

“Helping the children served by the Wright county Children's Home is critical to the community and I'm glad they have competed and won this USDA grant,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “The funds used to a new generator will help to provide a safe home for these children.”

Pictured Front Row Left to Right: Mark Hultgren, Rural Development Area Director; Jan Sherertz, Administrator; Karl Roebbeke, (Mid America Power Systems); Megan Hammer, Staff Assistant for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Vicki Thompson, Bookkeeper; Deb Brown, Assistant Administrator; Jean Coday, Board Secretary; Sharon Marler, Board President; Bonnie Climer, Board Member

Behind front row, standing on porch, left to right: Paul Harker, Board Member; Frank Vancil, Board Member; Ray Mowery, Rural Development Area Specialist; Ron Schrock (Seymour Kohler Dealer); Johnny Davis (Southern Missouri Natural Gas); Karen Sinning, Board Member; Dr. Don Forrest, Superintendent of Norwood Schools; Glynda Dickinson, US Bank (Hartville); Melanie Bell, Constituent Service Specialist for Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson; Joe Sellars, Board Member; Kenneth Foresythe, Vice President US Bank (Hartville); Leslie McAllister (VFW); Andy Shetler (Shetler's-Norwood & Cabool); Chuck Morgan (VFW)

“USDA Rural Development has identified a very important priority for the Wright County Children’s Home and I am very pleased to support funding for a generator for the foster care home. The not-for-profit board of directors and staff will be able to rely on continued operations of the facility during any type of emergency situation,” said U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson.

Jan Sherertz, Administrator expressed appreciation, “The Wright County Children’s Home is deeply grateful to our federal congressional staff as well as USDA Rural Development staff for helping to provide the means to purchase the generator. I would like to acknowledge Karl Roebbeke, Kohler dealer from Mid America Power Systems of Kansas City; Ron Shrock of Ron’s Electrical in Seymour; Eric Glidewell of Rost Form and Supply in Mountain Grove; and Johnny Davis from Southern Missouri Natural Gas Company. Mid America Power Systems allowed us to purchase the best generator on the market with a significant savings under market cost – additional donations towards the cost were received from The Veterans of Foreign Wars and The US Bank of Hartville. Ron’s Electrical donated the cost of installing the generator. Rost Form and Supply donated the cement slab and Southern Missouri Natural Gas Company donated equipment to hookup the generator. The generator represents an enormous sense of security for all the children and staff as they live here through all kinds of inclement weather. The administrative staff as well as the Board members can rest easy knowing that at all times the Home will be provided with power for electricity, hot water, hot meals, etc. for the day to day operations.”

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community.” Dunning added, “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

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. 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 Ray Mowery, Area Specialist, at 6726 S. Highway 63, Suite B, Houston, MO 65483-2701 or by calling (417) 967-2028 extension 3 or by email to [ray.mowery@mo.usda.gov](mailto:ray.mowery@mo.usda.gov).

**Committed to the future of rural communities**

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