

## WALHALLA HOMEOWNER RECOGNIZED BY USDA

*“National Homeownership Celebrated”*

**Walhalla, June 24, 2009** – USDA Rural Development has been making home loans since 1949 and is celebrating “Homeownership Month” during the month of June. The theme for 2009 Homeownership is “Preserving Homeownership.”

During this National Homeownership Month, Rural Development recognizes that all American families deserve the opportunity to achieve the American Dream of homeownership. Just as we are committed to keeping American families in their homes, we are also committed to helping new homeowners purchase their piece of the American Dream.

“Rural Development’s home loan program provides various funding advantages for families and individuals, also for very low income homeowners to make essential repairs to their homes making them more energy efficient and also removing any health hazards,” said Donald Warren, acting state director for USDA Rural Development. “This is an opportunity for us to assist the greatest generation to be able to continue living safely in their homes and in their communities.”



*Donald Warren and Daniel Degavrillac*

Daniel Degavrillac, a retired homeowner from Walhalla, is one individual that made use of Rural Development’s 504 Grant Program. Degavrillac received a grant from Rural Development for \$6,200. The monies were used to install eight energy efficient windows, install more insulation and make some minor concrete repairs.

Delighted with the improvements, and very grateful for the financial assistance, this allowed Daniel to continue living in his home.

In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development provided \$38.1 million in housing programs, \$54.7 million in business and community \$17.9 million in telecom programs to North Dakota residents.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$111 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than two million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.