



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS GUIDE ROCK TRANSITION SCHOOL FACILITY TO SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Kearney, Neb., August 27, 2004**—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded this month, \$16,500 in grant funds to the Village of Guide Rock to purchase and install kitchen equipment in the former Guide Rock Public School building that will be used as a senior/community center. The equipment is needed for the preparation of meals for senior citizens and for community events. The Village will contribute \$5,500 towards the equipment.

“Rural residents need a place to congregate socially for senior, social and cultural events and it is critical for senior citizens to have a healthy meal,” stated Glen Gatz, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. “USDA Rural Development funds will help make the future home of the senior/community center accommodating to the needs of the rural residents.”

Guide Rock was given the school facility when the school was consolidated. The facility now houses the Village office with the senior/community center soon to follow. Both the Village office and center had occupied the same deteriorating building downtown which had reached the point of being functionally inadequate and at the end of its useful life.

The Village prepares approximately 100 meals daily which are served to seniors both on site and through the Meals on Wheels program in Guide Rock and Webster County.

The grant funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant program. For additional information contact Glen Gatz, [glen.gatz@ne.usda.gov](mailto:glen.gatz@ne.usda.gov), 4009 North 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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