

Rural Development Assistance to Ragan Helped Out In a Time of Crisis

Outline Of Need: Community rooms accommodate villages with a place to gather and socialize. The Village of Ragan had, over a period of time, secured grants and donations totaling nearly \$100,000 to build their adjoining fire hall and community room, however they lacked the funds to finish the interior of the room. Financial assistance was also needed to purchase a generator to provide power, in case of emergency, to the two facilities.

How Rural Development Helped: USDA Rural Development's Community Facility grant program met the needs of the Village in the amount of \$27,000. The monies purchased cabinets, asphalted the parking lot and purchased the standby generator. This was not the first time the Village received Rural Development monies, as in 2004 they were assisted with funding to purchase a warning siren.

The Results: The need for this project was made blatantly apparent in late December of 2006. It was at this time, that south central Nebraska, including the Village of Ragan (population 50), was hit with a massive ice storm that brought down power lines and disrupted electricity to a wide area. Ragan was without electricity for eight days and the community room and generator were intricate to the residents as it provided them with a warm area to escape the cold and icy dark. Residents were thankful that they had a warm place to sleep, to eat a hot meal and to take a shower.

"When the power went off, our standby generator kicked on as it was designed to. The first night without power the community room was almost wall to wall with sleeping bags as residents sought to get out of the cold and darkness. In the following days, the residents would come to the community room for a warm meal and bathrooms as the community room features both a kitchen and restrooms."

"We are very appreciative of Rural Development's assistance and extend our thanks for their funding which helped us to complete the community room as well as to purchase the standby generator."

-Village Board Chairman Kelly Winz



Community Room Cabinets



Generator



Siren

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