



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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GROUND BROKEN FOR PRAIRIE BREEZE ASSISTED LIVING

Pender, Neb., April 8, 2008 – The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Pender State Bank today presented a check to Pender Care Centre District, Inc. in Pender for the near \$2.9 million Prairie Breeze assisted living facility. Ground was broken at the site of the future 16 unit affordable housing facility for the elderly of Burt, Cuming, Wayne and Thurston counties.

“We are very pleased to be a partner in the construction of Prairie Breeze assisted living,” stated Community Programs Director Denise Brosius-Meeks, USDA Rural Development. “Prairie Breeze is a much needed addition to the community and area as it enhances health care to the vicinity. Currently Pender offers four units of assisted living which does not meet the market’s demand, resulting in residents having to leave the community for the level of care needed.”

Pender Care Centre District, Inc. received a \$1,320,000 loan from USDA Rural Development at 4.125 percent interest for 40 years. Pender State Bank provided a loan of \$1,275,000 backed by a guarantee from Rural Development. Community donations of \$270,000 completed the funding needed.

“Prairie Breeze will be a great addition to Pender and one that will benefit the entire area. Providing a wide range of housing and health care options is extremely critical to the viability of a community and we are proud to be a partner in this important venture,” stated President Mike Minert, Pender State Bank.

Prairie Breeze will consist of 12,590 square feet that features 16 residential units with a common space for housekeeping, laundry rooms, a tub room, general storage, mechanical space, a family visitation/dining area and a future commercial kitchen and pantry. An 828 sq. ft. covered canopy and an 8 stall garage will also be included. Living units will contain one bedroom, separate living area, bathroom and a small kitchenette. Creation of eight full time positions is anticipated.

"It has been a longtime vision of our hospital board and the Pender community to add an assisted living facility to our continuum of care. Our team has worked diligently over the past two and a half years to plan and design this facility to best meet the needs of our residents," stated CEO/Administrator Mike Hansen, Pender Community Hospital. "This facility will allow individuals and couples to remain in an independent setting while they may also benefit from the provision of services for personal care, homemaking, and other activities."

Contact Jolene Kasper, USDA Rural Development (402) 371-5350. Visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>.

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