

# Partnering Gives Homeowner a Comfortable and Safe Place to Live

**Outline of Need:** Darlene is an 82 year old single individual living on a limited income. Up until just a few months ago she was working a part-time job just to make ends meet. Budget cuts caused the closure of the business location where she worked.

Her home has been in the family for several years and was in need of a few repairs. Her electrical system was starting to give her serious problems. Darlene's windows were older with wood frames that had deteriorated. The doors were not energy efficient and were also deteriorating.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided Darlene with 504 Home Repair Grant funds in the amount of \$6,170 in February 2011. These funds were used to upgrade her electrical service. The Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska teamed up with Rural Development on the repairs needed by providing weatherization funds from the Department of Energy through the Nebraska Energy Office. These additional funds resulted in energy efficiency doors and windows being installed as well as compact fluorescent lighting and a carbon monoxide detector. Additional insulation was also added to the attic.

**The Results:** Through effective partnering Darlene received the needed repairs to her home. Darlene no longer has to worry about blowing a fuse or causing a spark when she plugs in an appliance. She is also kept comfortably warm in the winter with her new energy efficient windows and doors. The energy savings will help her stay within her budget, now that she no longer has her part time job.

*"I am very thankful for all the work that has been done," said Darlene, homeowner.*