

Legislative, Federal Partnerships Benefit Ohio Families \$2 Million in Financing Makes New Center a Reality for Jackson County



Sen. George Voinovich and his wife Janet (center), join funding partners, leadership and staff of the Jackson County Child Development Center in the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the new \$2 million facility. State Director Randy Hunt (center behind Mrs. Voinovich) represented USDA Rural Development as one of the crucial funding partners. (Inset) Community members attend the ribbon cutting event.

U.S. Sen. George Voinovich joined Rural Development and other funders to help celebrate the Grand Opening of the new \$2 million, 10,840 square foot Jackson County Child Development Center.

The new child development center, which is more than twice the size of the previous location, provides increased space so the staff can expand services to

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(From Left) U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, Randy Hunt, state director, USDA Rural Development, Gary Stiffler, chairman, Jackson County Child Development Center's Governing Board and Marlene Ray, executive director, Jackson County Child Development Center celebrate the grand opening of their newly completed \$2 million childcare facility.

RD Review

Fayette County Plans to use \$1.9 Million from Rural Development for Courthouse Renovations



Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt (center), presents a check for \$1.9 million to Fayette County officials during a September visit. County officials have pledged the funding to cover much-needed renovation and restoration of the historic Fayette County Courthouse.

State Director Randy Hunt presented a check for \$1.9 million to Fayette County officials during a recent visit. The funding comes from Rural Development's Community Facility Program.

Community leaders say they will use the funding to tackle a renovation and restoration plan designed to modernize the historic courthouse. Efforts to update the courthouse will include: plumbing, heating and air conditioning, electrical system upgrades, restoration of the stair structure surrounding the courthouse's entrance, roof restoration and additional work already identified.

Rural Development Participates in Broadband Forum

Rural Development joined legislative and state professionals at Ohio University in Zanesville to participate in a September Broadband panel sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown.

John Ryan, state director for Senator Brown was the panel's moderator. Leadership from GMN Tri County Community Action Commission, a successful Rural Development Broadband applicant, was part of a presentation that outlined Ohio's Broadband needs and identified successful rural broadband applications. Additional presenters included representatives from the City of Marietta and First Communications.



Gary Ricer (at podium) and Jim Archer (standing left), GMN Tri County executives, give a presentation to the panel and attendees at the Broadband Forum. Ricer and Archer shared their experiences in developing successful rural broadband projects using Rural Development funding.

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area families seeking childcare. This updated facility will enable Jackson County Child Development Center to provide care for up to 158 children, from newborn to age 10.

Voinovich worked to secure \$695,050 in grant funds from HUD's Neighborhood Initiative and Economic Development Initiative Programs. This funding was leveraged with \$639,000 from USDA Rural Development's Community

Facilities Program, \$402,500 from the Child Development Center of Jackson County and \$300,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Total funding for the project was \$2,036,550.

Ohio Rural Housing Conference Draws National Attention



Russell Davis, administrator for Housing and Community Facilities Programs, delivers the keynote address during housing conference.

Ohio hosted the 2007 Rural Housing Conference during September. The annual conference was held in Columbus and provided the

opportunity for those attending to hear from key individuals regarding a variety of housing issues, development agendas, financing and preservation opportunities and both State and National legislation effecting the housing community.

Russell Davis attended the conference and delivered the keynote address and presented Excellence in Rural Rental Housing and Site Manager of



the Year awards to Ohio recipients.

New \$10 Million Multi-Family Housing Project Financed



(From Left) Hal Keller, president, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Jeff Woda, president of the WODA Group, Peter Morgan, chief of staff for Rural Development's Housing and Community Facilities Program and Michael Steinger, processing division director for Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing Program, tour one of the available units during Troon Crossing's official opening.

USDA Rural Development, The WODA Group, Huntington Bank, the Ohio Capital Corporation partnered to finance Troon Crossing, a new \$10.5 million multi-family housing project in Zanesville, Ohio. The project is a 60-unit development that combines both single family and townhouse units.



Steinger and Morgan tour one of the WODA Group's units during their visit.

Peter Morgan, chief of staff for Rural Development's Housing and Community Facilities Program and Michael Steinger, processing division director within Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing Program, visited from Washington, DC to help celebrate Troon Crossing's official opening.

The project was financed through Rural Development's Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing 538 Program.

Leveraged Funding Finances Learning Center

More than \$1.1 Million to Renovate New Facility

Rural Development joined a group of funders committed to making sure families in Noble and surrounding counties have dependable and affordable childcare options for their children. In operation for more than 25 years, the Noble Learning Center is the only licensed childcare facility in Noble County.

The center's management had previously investigated several funding options without success.

Rural Development joined with the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund, Advantage Bank, the Ohio Department of Development (Governor's Office of Appalachia), the Foundation of Appalachia Ohio and Peoples Bank to assemble a \$1,161,342 financial package. The funding helped with the building purchase, renovation and equipping the new center.

The new facility is larger than previous locations and will enable Noble Learning Center to serve up to 135 children daily.



(Top inset) State Director Randy Hunt shares his appreciation with the audience gathered for the Noble Learning Center Grand Opening. (Top) Hunt joins Center Director LaShona DeVold for a guided tour of the new facility.

Rural Development Administrator Awards Local Housing Funds



Russell Davis (center), administrator for Housing and Community Facilities Programs, presents a \$280,000 check to Bambi Baughn and Patty Griffiths of the Fayette County Community Action Commission.

Rural Development Housing and Community Programs Administrator Russ Davis visited Ohio to participate in a funding awards presentation during Home Ownership Month

(June). Davis expressed his gratitude to the Fayette County Community Action Commission (CAC) for its dedication to meeting the housing needs of rural Ohioans. Fayette County CAC has tapped into Rural Development's Self-Help Housing Program, securing more than \$2.3 million while helping Ohio families construct more than

170 homes.

The funding supported lot development in the new Arbor Village subdivision located in the City of Washington Court House, Ohio.

Rural Development Funded Projects

Putnam Village Ribbon Cutting



Bernie Swack (center with scissors), president, The Provident Companies, cuts the ribbon celebrating newly funded \$934,000 Rural Development project.

Amesville Sewer Dedication



State Director Randy Hunt attends a ground breaking ceremony celebrating the award of a \$15,000 pre-development grant to help with Amesville's new sewer project.

Rural Development Focuses on Staff Training



Ohio's Rural Development staff held its State Meeting in August. These meetings are designed to bring staff from across the state together to conduct training, discuss program delivery issues and continue to build on the team approach used to target services to Ohio's rural communities.

To address the issue of staff diversity State Director Randy Hunt brought in Brideworks, a company specializing in training staff on employee generational differences and identifying motivational and value confrontational issues.

The meeting also included opportunities for staff to participate in training sessions that involved programs other than those they primarily worked in. These cross-training sessions enabled staffers to broaden their overall program knowledge while simultaneously improving their ability to provide better service to Rural Development clients.

Staff also used the meeting as an opportunity to network, informally exchange positive lessons learned from field experiences and get caught up on personal issues that impact their everyday lives.

Rural Development engages in these types of statewide training opportunities in an effort to collectively re-energize and refocus both effort and commitment to improving program delivery to its rural Ohio audience.



(Top left) David Stillman and Lynne Lancaster of Bridgeworks pause to admire the ice sculpture promoting their discussion theme. (Top right) Staffers participate in one of several interactive activities employed by David and Lynne during their presentation.



(Lower left) Members of the Business and Industry staff deliver a program presentation during one of the cross-training sessions. (Lower right) Rural Development staffers take the opportunity to chat during a break in the day's training. (Right) Rural Development staffers mix and mingle during one of the day's final breaks as the training winds down.