



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Indiana—Rural Utilities Service

Exceptional Service Through Local Presence

Dedication, Commitment Aid In Business Resurrection

Outline of Need:

Blue River Services began offering assistance to handicapped individuals at the Salem, Indiana facility in 1980. When 10 inches of ice and snow fell during the winter of 2008, moisture caused mold to grow in the HVAC system and created a serious health hazard. Despite efforts to remove the water, the foundation remained saturated. Duct work became a ripe environment for mold, which spread throughout the building creating health hazards for people already struggling with other challenges. In April 2008, the building was determined unsafe for occupancy and was condemned.

Blue River Services programs were relocated to available space in other scattered sites. Handicapped clients often traveled to several different facilities for needed services. Some services could only be offered outside Washington County. Many clients had to forego needed services as transportation issues caused added hardship.

How Rural Development Helped:

North Vernon Area Specialist Theresa Brading knew how important the Blue River Services' facility was to the local area. Having worked for the area regional planning commission and then the Indiana Community Development Block Grant Program, before joining RD, Blue River Services had been in her service area. She had developed a respect for them and their ability to deliver excellent services for the handicapped.

When Cecilia Peredo, Community Development Specialist with River



USDA Rural Development Area Specialists from Indiana's North Vernon Area Office: Theresa Brading (left) and Marcia Comer.

Hills Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission contacted Theresa about potential funding, they discussed RD's Community Programs and Theresa helped coordinate the effort to successfully receive funding.

North Vernon Area Specialist Marcia Comer also joined in the project and an RD investment of \$522,000 was approved to construct a new, larger, more efficient 7,725 square foot service center.

The End Result:

Blue River Services serves over 3,500 Washington County residents. The new facility, scheduled to open in June, not only restores the much needed local accessibility but also enhances Blue River Services' capacity to serve all residents who depend on these services.

With the assistance and dedication of Theresa Brading and Marcia Comer, the center is returning to its original home next month, signaling the end of four years of interrupted services.

Without the combined efforts of the Rural Development staff, State and Federal programs, and support from the Washington County Commissioner, restoration of the "ONE STOP SHOP" for Washington County residents would not be possible. The new building will not only centralize services once again but it also will enhance Blue River's ability to serve its clients and increase its capacity to accommodate more local residents.

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program

Investment: \$350,000 RD Community Facilities Loan
\$172,000 RD Community Facilities Grant
\$500,000 OCRA CDBG Grant

Partners: Washington County Commissioners

Programs Offered at Site:

- Alternative Day Program
- First Steps
- Healthy Families/ WIC
- Employment Services
- Transportation Services

3,519 Washington County Residents are served

Congressional District : Todd Young (IN-6)

Contact: Darrell.mowery@in.usda.gov

June 2012