



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Florida - Rural Housing Service

# Community Building

## The Heart of a Community: Grant Bridges Gap to Complete Renovation of Historic Community Center

### Outline Of Need:

After more than eight years of fundraising and building relationships with strategic partners, the small rural City of Archer, Fla., needed additional funding to complete renovations of a historic gym for use as a community center.

### How Rural Development Helped:

Realizing the importance to the community and the partnerships developed by the City of Archer, USDA Rural Development provided the City with a \$98,000 Community Facilities grant to complete renovations.

### The Results:

A 1937 era gym, built by the Federal Works Progress Administration, has been completely renovated and will serve as the Archer Community Center. Using USDA funds, the City of Archer was able to complete interior construction on the historic building for its

### Fast Facts

**Program:** Rural Housing Services, Community Facility

**Investment:** \$98,000 grant

**Partners:** State of Florida Historic Preservation Office; Plum Creek Foundation; Wild Places, Public Spaces and the City of Archer.

**Congressional District:** FL-06

**Demographics:** Alachua County, City of Archer, pop. 1,289

**Impact:** The City of Archer worked with its citizens and partnered with state and federal agencies to complete renovations for a much needed community center.



*More than 250 community members and leaders turned out to celebrate the transformation and completion of The Archer Community Center.*

transformation from an abandoned shell of a high school gymnasium to a place “Where the community comes together.”

City organizers say the facility is important to a small town like Archer, where there is no space available to have public gatherings. The Archer Community Center has capacity for up to 280 people to use the facility as a meeting place for events and community outreach programs.

In the words of Richard Macheck, Rural Development State Director, “Downtown Archer has moved. It’s here now.”

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