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Michigan—Rural Housing Service

Community Building

Library Expansion Strengthens Community of Morton

Outline Of Need:

Rural libraries have traditionally served as gathering places and local education centers as well as places where residents can find books to read. Increasingly they are also the gateway to the wider world of the Internet.

Morton Township's library was increasingly inadequate to the community's needs. There was not enough parking, meeting room space or computer stations. Children wishing to participate in activities had to cross a busy street to the township hall.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development provided a \$2.8 million loan and \$200,000 grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The community has already raised more than \$150,000 – a substantial contribution for a community of less than 4,000



Support for the Morton Township Library expansion spans the entire community. The groundbreaking ceremony shown above attracted hundreds of local residents. (USDA photo).

residents. The new structure will total 13,709 square feet, an increase of 8,800 square feet over the existing facility.

The Results:

There will be more space for books, but just as important is the increased access to the Internet through additional computer workstations, the three meeting rooms to host community events and learning opportunities, and greatly improved parking.

The residents of Morton Township see their expanded library as a vital investment in their future – both through their children and their sense of community.

June 2011

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities Loan/Grant Combination

Investment: \$2.8 million loan, \$200,000 grant

Congressional District: MI-4

Partners: The community - \$150,000

Demographics

- Township of Morton
- Population: 3,594 residents

Impact:

- Provides library services for entire township

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