



Michigan—Rural Housing Service

Strategic Partners

A Partnership to Help Homeownership

Outline Of Need:

Like many rural areas, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula has seen a long-term economic decline as the mines have closed and young people have left. It has become increasingly difficult for families to find quality, affordable housing that can withstand the harsh winters. Marquette County has seen its net population decline by almost 8 percent over the past two decades.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development has built a long-standing partnership with Marquette County Habitat for Humanity. Over the past 10 years, Marquette Habitat has received six grants through the self-help housing program. This June saw the sixth and final award, marking a \$1.2 million investment in quality housing for area residents.

The Results:

Over the past decade, a total of 50 household have



Area Director Don Gerrie (fourth from left) presents a certificate commemorating 10 years of partnership with Marquette County Habitat for Humanity. After the ceremony, he joined participants in working on work on the project.(USDA photo)

achieved the American dream of homeownership thanks the partnership with USDA Rural Development and Marquette Habitat for Humanity. This partnership not only has helped provide direct benefits for the families involved, it has also helped strengthen the sense of community as neighbors come together to help each other.

Through the self-help program, residents help in building their own homes and utilize local materials and contractors, insuring the maximum possible impact on the local economy.

This amplifies the positive benefit communities receive when residents achieve home ownership. By adding additional quality housing and enhancing the sense of community, this partnership has helped make Marquette a more desirable place to live and work.

June 2011

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Utilities Service
Investment: \$2.8 million loan, \$200,000 grant
Congressional District: MI-1
Partners: Marquette County Habitat for Humanity - \$1.2 million

Demographics

- 65,703 residents

Impact:

- Provided homes for 50 families and individuals
- Strengthened the sense of community

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