



NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Opening Held for Ketchikan Group Home Facility

Ketchikan, Alaska, June 29, 2010—A Ketchikan group home funded in part by USDA through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was opened today. The home is for adults with developmental disabilities and USDA has joined with Federal, State and local agencies and organizations to fund the project.

“The Obama Administration is working to nurture a society that values the contributions of all of our citizens and residents including those living with disabilities,” said Alaska USDA Rural Development State Director Jim Nordlund. “This facility will make it easier for Alaskans with disabilities to receive the services and support they need. Additionally, a portion of the funding provided by USDA for this facility comes from the Recovery Act, which was signed into law by the President to cushion the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression and lay a new foundation for economic growth. This project supports jobs in Ketchikan and also provides improved services to those who need them most.” Representing State Director Nordlund at the ceremony was Tasha Deardorff, a loan specialist from USDA Rural Development’s Anchorage staff.

The group home, operated by Opportunity, Inc. contains eight-units for those facing developmental challenges. The facility will allow residents independence, while still receiving necessary support. It also provided construction jobs and long term staff jobs in Ketchikan.

In addition to funding provided by USDA through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, USDA provided funds through its Community Facilities Program. Funding was also provided through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, First City Rotary, Wells Fargo Bank, the Rasmuson Foundation and the local community. USDA Rural Development is working closely with other agencies, including the Forest Service, to promote economic development in Southeast Alaska. Today’s ceremony is a part of that effort.

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