



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES IDA GROVE MAN AS THE FAMILY HOUSING SITE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Waylan Shoesmith Recognized for Dedication to Residents of Ida Grove Apartment Complex

LE MARS – Dec. 8, 2006 – Kimberly Clay, a USDA Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Specialist in Le Mars, today participated in a ceremony recognizing Waylan Shoesmith as Iowa's Family Housing Site Manager of the Year. Shoesmith is manager of Ida Grove IHA, LP apartment complex, which is better known as Maple River Apartments in Ida Grove.

“USDA Rural Development is committed to providing housing opportunities in rural areas, which allow these communities to continue to develop and grow,” said Reisinger. “People like Waylan Shoesmith are critical to the success of Rural Development's housing programs.”

Ron Dupuy from Keyway Management, which manages the complex, nominated Shoesmith for the award. Many tenants of the complex also voiced their support for his nomination as site managers of the year.

“Waylan goes above and beyond to meet the needs of residents, whether it is fixing a maintenance problem or reminding them to pay the rent, he is courteous and treats the residents with respect,” Dupuy said in his nomination. “It is obvious that Waylan believes in what he is doing and does it with a sense of pride.”

USDA Rural Development's Site Manager of the Year program was started in 1997 to recognize apartment managers who provide exceptional service to their residents. The Site Manager of the Year Program includes competition in two categories – family and elderly complexes.

Shoesmith was selected from area winners across the state as the top Family Site Manager of the Year in Iowa. His name will be forwarded to the USDA National Office for participation in a nation-wide competition.

“It's with great pride and honor that USDA Rural Development recognizes Waylan Shoesmith's outstanding efforts to ensure that the building requirements, including the overall safety and security needs of the residents, are being met,” said Rural Development's Clay.

Each year USDA Rural Development invests more than \$100 million in loans and grants that provide rural Iowa residents with decent, safe and sanitary single or multi-family housing.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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There are currently 579 multi-family housing projects financed by USDA Rural Development in Iowa. Overall, these projects provide rural Iowa residents with access to 10,603 apartments. Rent is based on income and rent assistance from the government is available depending on the income of the tenant.

“Providing rural housing opportunities is just another way the federal government, through USDA Rural Development, is enhancing the ability of rural communities to develop and to grow, ensuring the best possible quality of life for rural residents,” Reisinger said.

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 1.9 million Iowans living in rural areas. Office locations include a State Office in Des Moines, along with Area Offices in Albia, Atlantic, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Le Mars at 712/546-5149 or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.