



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZING 35th ANNIVERSARIES OF APARTMENT COMPLEXES IN AFTON AND OSCEOLA

Apartments have been Serving Elderly Residents since 1971

AFTON – Oct. 11, 2006 – Anthony Putz, USDA Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Specialist in Indianola, today presented plaques to Afton Manor, Inc. and Clarke Community Housing, Inc., in Osceola, recognizing the facilities for 35 years of service to residents in their communities.

“Ensuring that rural residents have access to decent, safe and affordable housing has been a top priority of USDA Rural Development for many years,” said Mark Reisinger, the State Director of USDA Rural Development in Iowa. “It’s through housing projects like these that we are able to help as many rural Iowans as possible have access to adequate housing.”

Afton Manor, Inc. owns two complexes that provide 24 apartments to elderly and disabled residents in the Afton area. Clarke Community Housing, Inc. in Osceola owns three complexes that provide 90 apartments to elderly and disabled residents in the Osceola area.

The first phases of both facilities were built in 1971. Rural Development provided low-interest loans to help finance construction of the complexes.

USDA Rural Development currently has more than 600 multi-family housing projects in Iowa in 98 counties. Overall, these projects provide rural Iowans with access to nearly 11,000 apartments. Rent is based on income. Rent assistance is also available from the government depending on the income of the tenant.

Each year USDA Rural Development invests around \$100 million in loans and grants that provide rural residents with decent, safe and sanitary single or multi-family housing. Housing loans can be obtained directly with Rural Development or from a private financial institution.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of direct and guaranteed rural credit programs involving single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and industry programs.

“We have been very pleased to have partners in Afton and Osceola for the past 35 years and look forward to continuing to work with them,” Reisinger said.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. 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 Indianola, which can be reached at (515) 961-5365, or by visiting USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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