



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR NEW PLAYGROUND SURFACE AND EQUIPMENT AT GINGERBREAD HOUSE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN STORM LAKE

STORM LAKE – September 20, 2006 – Arnold Thomas, USDA Rural Development Community Programs Specialist, today participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground surface and equipment at Gingerbread House Child Development Center, Inc. in Storm Lake. USDA Rural Development provided the center with a \$1,500 grant to assist with the purchase of a new playground surface and equipment.

“Rural Development is always ready to work with organizations and communities that come to us for help, whether it's to assist a child care centers like this one, or apartment buildings, health care facilities, water systems or community buildings,” said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “Playground equipment for this early education center is just one example of Rural Development's efforts to invest in projects that make a real difference in the quality of life in rural areas.”

During the past 14 years, Rural Development has also provided financing to the child development center assisting with the facility itself, along with a building expansion project.

“At Rural Development, we are continually looking for ways to enhance the ability of rural communities to not only develop and grow, but also to thrive,” Reisinger said.

USDA Rural Development supported community facility projects in more than 100 communities across the state the past year, including collaborating with 11 local school districts and communities to establish child care facilities or playgrounds. In total, USDA Rural Development made more than \$15 million in direct and guaranteed loans to support community facilities in Iowa last year.

Contact USDA Rural Development

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.

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).

Further information on rural programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Storm Lake, which can be reached at (712) 732-1851, or by visiting Rural Development's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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