



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Recognizes Kevin and Sue Smith of Primghar as Apartment Managers of the Year in Iowa

Kevin and Sue Honored for Extraordinary Efforts and Dedication in Meeting Residents' Needs

DES MOINES, Iowa – March 24, 2009 – Kim Clay with USDA Rural Development was in Primghar today to recognize Kevin and Sue Smith, apartment managers of Primghar Housing, as USDA Rural Development 2008 Apartment Site Managers of the Year in northwest Iowa.

“It’s with great pleasure that we recognize Kevin and Sue for consistently doing an outstanding job with the complex in Primghar,” Theresa Jordison, USDA Rural Development Area Director said. “They are dedicated to ensuring all building requirements and residents’ overall safety and security needs are being met.”

Kevin and Sue were honored for their extraordinary efforts to ensure all of their residents have access to quality housing opportunities and their outstanding dedication to meeting their residents’ needs.

USDA Rural Development’s Site Manager of the Year program was started in 1997 to recognize apartment managers that go above and beyond what is expected of them. The Site Manager of the Year program includes competition in two categories – family and elderly complexes.

Primghar Housing serves family residents. The facility was constructed in three stages with three sites and has a total of 18 units. The first site was constructed in 1975 and the second and third sites were built in 1976 and 1977 respectively.

USDA Rural Development currently provides financing for nearly 550 multi-family housing projects located in 370 communities in rural Iowa. These projects provide rural Iowans with access to more than 10,000 apartments. Rent in the apartments is based on income, and rental assistance from the government is available depending on the income of the tenant.

Apartment complexes play an important role in the sustainability of rural communities. They allow residents to continue to live in their home community, many times close to family and friends. Apartments also offer numerous opportunities for social activities with friends and others in the same age group and with the same interests, as well as provide a great opportunity for young adults to build up equity so they can some day become homeowners.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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“The ability to provide current and prospective residents with affordable and safe multi-family housing is fundamental to a community’s ability to sustain a high quality of life for its residents,” Jordison said.

About USDA Rural Development

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

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.

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 1.9 million Iowans living in rural area. 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.

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’s web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.