



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA Rural Development Participates in Groundbreaking Ceremonies For Expansion Project at Sheffield Care Center *Senior Living Facility to Add an Assisted Living Addition*

DES MOINES, Iowa – May 21, 2009 – Doug Moss, Area Director with USDA Rural Development, today was at a groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of Deerfield Place, Sheffield Care Center’s new assisted living facility.

“USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be assisting with this expansion project at Sheffield Care Center,” said Timothy Helmbrecht, Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development in Iowa. “Facilities such as this one play an important role in expanding opportunities while also improving the quality of life for all rural residents.”

USDA Rural Development provided a \$1.5 million guaranteed loan to United Bank and Trust and a \$500,000 direct loan to Sheffield Care Center for the construction of the 16-unit assisted living addition. The 56-unit care center offers intermediate care, skilled care, residential care, outpatient therapy services and a Meals-on-Wheels program.

Since 2003, more than 40 hospitals, rehabilitation centers, healthcare office buildings, clinics, mental health facilities, nursing homes and assisted living centers across Iowa have received nearly \$50 million in financial assistance from USDA Rural Development to improve, expand or build new facilities.

“Access to high quality health care is an issue of growing concern to many rural communities as the baby boom generation continues to age,” Helmbrecht said. “As a result, hospitals are remodeling and expanding, and new health clinics, assisted living centers and other health care facilities are springing up across the state. In fact, the percentage of residents living in Iowa who are 65 or older is surpassed by only three other states, Florida, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.”

During the past year, Rural Development provided assistance to more than 100 communities across Iowa with guaranteed loans, direct loans and grants totaling nearly \$200 million. The funds helped with improvements to community facilities and upgrades to local infrastructure.

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.

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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).

“Whether the project is a new medical clinic, hospital, fire station, fire truck, emergency equipment, community building, assisted living facility, or child care center, our agency is ready to assist,” Helmbrecht added. “We believe community improvement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America. All of our programs are voluntary, so give us a call today.”

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.

Further information on rural programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Iowa Falls, which can be reached at (641) 648-5181, or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.