



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 30, 2008

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Greensburg Families To Build More Homes Through Special USDA Program

Twenty New Homes Being Built, Thirty More Planned

Greensburg, KS. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks was joined Saturday by families and community leaders from Greensburg and Kiowa County for the groundbreaking of ten (10) additional new homes to be constructed under the Agency-supported *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program*. During the ceremony USDA also announced that funding has been secured to allow for the construction of thirty (30) additional affordable single-family 'green' homes under this sweat-equity program for residents returning to Greensburg.

"Today is a very exciting day for Greensburg and its residents. I compliment the vision of the City's leaders to embrace this innovative opportunity to support new affordable green housing in the community. New affordable homes is a key component for Greensburg's long-term recovery, to help support a greener, more sustainable future for Greensburg and Kiowa County," commented State Director Banks at Saturday's event.

Greensburg Mayor, Bob Dixson, stated, "I appreciate USDA Rural Development and its many partners working together to bring needed affordable housing to Greensburg. This Program helps residents rebuild their lives by working together to build a home in their community."

Funding for the *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* is a result of the first-ever partnership between the United Way of the Plains in Wichita and USDA Rural Development. This cooperative funding arrangement allows the City of Greensburg to work with Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services to oversee the construction of affordable single-family homes. A total of fifty (50) affordable 'green' homes are planned to be constructed under this program.

The *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* includes the involvement of 19 non-profits and faith-based organizations, national energy experts, government agencies, and trade associations to help reduce the cost of the houses being built to replace those homes lost from the devastating May 4th, 2007 tornado that struck Greensburg and the region.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. Individuals interested in learning more about the *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* should contact Kiowa County Long Term Recovery Housing Coordinator Laura Stoltenberg at 620-723-1097 or USDA Rural Development at 620-275-0211.

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