



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Assists with Chapman Housing Needs *Homeownership Loan Associated with Tornado Recovery Made*

Chapman, KS – USDA Rural Development is pleased to announce it has closed its first homeownership loan associated with the Agency's Chapman tornado recovery efforts. USDA began its 'Chapman Relief & Recovery Initiative' the day following the June 11th tornado, including working with community residents to help meet their housing and other recovery needs.

USDA Rural Development's first Chapman low-affordable homeownership loan has been made to Laeth Bender who has purchased an existing home in Chapman. Mr. Bender previously utilized an Agency-financed apartment in the area for temporary lodging following the loss of his pre-tornado residence. USDA partners Astra Bank, Chapman KS; FHLBank, Topeka KS; Coldwell Banker-Mowery Custer, Realtors, Junction City, American Red Cross, Salina, and Salvation Army assisted the Agency in making this first Chapman recovery loan.

"USDA Rural Development is very pleased to have closed its first low-interest homeownership loan in Chapman. With the assistance of many Agency partners, USDA will continue to help as many Chapman residents as possible," remarked USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks at today's closing ceremony.

Mr. Bender commented, "The June 11 tornado changed our world here in Chapman, so many suffered more than I did. Damage from the tornado to my trailer had me out looking for a place to live, that is when I received a call from USDA Rural Development. Through the help of USDA Rural Development, American Red Cross and Salvation Army I found temporary housing at Enterprise Estates. With USDA Rural Development and Astra Bank's assistance, today I become a home owner in Chapman, a town I grew up in, work in and I am planning my future in."

Individuals interested in learning more about the Agency's programs should contact the Agency's Manhattan Office at 785-776-7582 or the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700, or log onto the state's USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.

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