

NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040
Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks
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Contact - Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

Junction City Awarded USDA Funding *Chapman Home Rebuilding To Benefit From USDA Program*

Junction City, KS. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$162,000 to the Junction City Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. USDA Rural Development has approved funding from the Agency's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* to build a total of 18 additional sweat-equity homes in Junction City and Chapman.

State Director Banks remarked, "With this award Junction City, thru the mutual self-help housing program, will be able continue their current program and also be able to assist in the rebuilding of affordable housing in Chapman, KS. During normal times, Kansas needs more affordable workforce housing to support greater economic development opportunities for our State. When natural disasters hit, seeing one rural community support another is a important example of how Kansan's help Kansan's."

Under USDA's Mutual Self-Help Housing Program, Junction City has supported local families construction of 53 new homes, representing over \$4.3 million in home ownership loans provided by the Agency. As a condition of this program, the future homeowners are required to personally supply 65% of the labor to construct their house. The Junction City Mutual Self-Help Housing Program has been a participant in USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* since 2001, a federally-funded program that provides affordable workforce housing opportunities to eligible applicants.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. 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 nearly \$1.5 billion to Kansans covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$7 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

Additional information regarding USDA Rural Development's programs can be obtained by contacting the Agency's Manhattan office at 785-776-7582. Individuals may also call 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

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