

NEWS

The Abilene Reflector-Chronicle

Chapman homeowner recognized by USDA

-

Abilene Reflector-Chronicle

Thursday, Jun 11, 2009

CHAPMAN -- A Chapman couple was being recognized by the Agriculture Department's Rural Development's single family home repair grant program.

Ralph and Ella Mae Settgast, 121 East Sixth Street, were selected by the agency. The Settgast home was damaged during the June 11, 2008 tornado. Agency funding was leveraged with insurance and other funds to replace the roof, repair the exterior, and upgrade the heating/air conditioning system in the house to make it safe and energy efficient.

USDA Rural Development is highlighting numerous homeownership success stories and recognizing agency partners who assist in helping rural Kansans and Kansas communities as part of National Homeownership Month. Increasing affordable housing opportunities helps to strengthen our families, improves economic development opportunities, and enhances a community's overall quality of life, according to the agency.

Helping families with reaching their dream of homeownership is only part of USDA Rural Development's commitment to rural families. The other part of the equation is to work with families to preserve their dream of homeownership, especially during difficult economic times.

In addition to helping families buy a home, or addressing temporary economic stresses on their family budget, USDA Rural Development works closely with local community based organizations to identify low-income families and elderly homeowners with home repairs and improvements.

Repairs and improvements may include weatherization, such as replacing inefficient heating systems, windows and doors; adding insulation; installing weather-stripping; or making homes accessible for individuals with disabilities; installing and upgrading plumbing, and electrical systems; and removing safety hazards.