



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Self-Help Housing Families in Greensburg Move Into Their New Homes

*Twenty Three Homes Have Now Been Completed*

**Greensburg, KS.** – USDA Rural Development Housing Programs Director Tim Rogers and the Agency's Area Director Kent Colwell were joined by family members, Mayor Bob Dixson, City Administrator Steve Hewitt, Kiowa County Commission chairman Gene West, and Julie Smith from Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of three additional new homes constructed under the Agency-supported *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program*. After the dedication ceremony, self-guided home tours of the affordable single-family 'green' homes built under this sweat-equity program for residents returning to Greensburg followed.

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs Director Tim Rogers said, "It is great to see the homes being completed as a result of this unique program, which is the first of its kind in the nation. 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."

Greensburg Mayor, Bob Dixson, stated, "I appreciate USDA Rural Development, Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, and the many other partners working together to bring needed affordable housing to Greensburg. It is a continuing process and it is just another great example of people pulling together to help rebuild Greensburg".

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 allowed the City of Greensburg to work with Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services to oversee the construction of the affordable single-family homes. A total of twenty three affordable 'green' homes have been constructed under this program.

The *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* includes the involvement of 24 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 4, 2007 tornado that struck Greensburg and the region.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development and its programs, log onto the Agency's website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks) or call the Agency's state office at 785-271-2700.

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

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