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DETERMINATION PAYS OFF FOR NEW HOMEOWNER Federal Funding Partnership Makes Homeownership Possible

LAKE CHARLES, February 8, 2008 – When her first home loan application was disapproved by USDA Rural Development in 2006, Mildred Doucet refused to give up—in fact, she became even more determined to become a homeowner. Today, her determination is about to pay off—Doucet will be accepting the keys to her new home.

USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway joined Calcasieu Parish Police Jury members, contractors, family, and friends today to present the keys to Doucet.

“When I first applied to Rural Development for a home loan, I didn’t make enough money,” says Doucet. “I was working at McDonald’s, and it just wasn’t enough.”

Ross Maxwell, Single Family Housing Specialist with USDA Rural Development, says Doucet refused to give up. “Ms. Doucet went to work at a second part-time job, enrolled in night classes, and worked her way into a new, better-paying job with the Calcasieu Parish School Board.”

When Doucet reapplied for a USDA Rural Development homeownership loan in April 2007, she was approved.

“We commend Ms. Doucet for her hard work and determination,” said Holloway. “She is a role model for others who are hoping to become first-time homeowners.”

Ms. Doucet is financing her home through a unique funding partnership between USDA Rural Development and the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury—through HUD’s Homeownership Voucher Program. This is the first USDA Rural Development loan-HUD Homeownership Voucher combination approved in Calcasieu Parish.

HUD’s Homeownership Voucher Program provides financial assistance to qualified first-time home buyers to help meet monthly mortgage expenses. The Calcasieu Parish Police Jury serves as the local Public Housing Agency and administers the HUD Homeownership Voucher Program in Calcasieu Parish. USDA Rural Development provides direct homeownership financing with no down payment to qualified rural residents whose incomes are below 80 percent of the median income.

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For more information on these and other homeownership opportunities, contact the Lafayette Area Office of USDA Rural Development at (337) 262-6601, extension 4.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located in Alexandria, and Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs may be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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