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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOME LOAN PROGRAM HELPS FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER BECOME A HOMEOWNER**

PORT ALLEN, June 22, 2009 – June is Homeownership Month, and in Port Allen, one area resident is celebrating Homeownership Month in a new home.

Over a year ago, Terry Bonnie decided she wanted to become a homeowner, but she was uncertain about the financial side of purchasing a home. Ms. Bonnie enrolled in a first-time homebuyer class to learn about the home buying process.

“I learned how to prepare myself financially to apply for a home loan and what types of home loans are available,” said Ms. Bonnie. “I learned about Rural Development from a fellow classmate.”

Ms. Bonnie purchased her home through a direct USDA Rural Development home loan. This federal home loan program offers 100 percent financing, extended financing periods, and fixed-rate financing. Eligibility for USDA Rural Development homeownership programs is primarily based on income, repayment ability, and acceptable credit history.

“I can’t explain the joy I felt when my application was approved and everything began to fall into place,” said Ms. Bonnie. “I am very grateful for the Rural Development program.”

Brenda Williams, USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Specialist, worked with Ms. Bonnie throughout the application process and recently presented Ms. Bonnie the keys to her new home.

“Terry’s determination to become a homeowner paid off,” said Williams. “It is very rewarding to be a part of her success story.”

Further information on USDA Rural Development’s homeownership programs can be obtained from Brenda Williams, Single Family Housing Specialist, Amite Area Office, (985) 748-8751, extension 4, or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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**Photo with caption**



Brenda Williams (left), USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Specialist - Amite, presents Terry Bonnie (center) with a ceremonial key to her new home. Realtor Sandra Boyette (right) joined Ms. Bonnie for the presentation.