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ST. TAMMANY PARISH HOMEOWNER HAS A LOT TO CELEBRATE DURING HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

BUSH, June 27, 2008 – June is celebrated nationally as Homeownership Month to promote the benefits of homeownership and encourage potential homebuyers and others to consider the benefits of homeownership. In Bush, Louisiana—a rural community in St. Tammany Parish, Carolyn Finn is celebrating Homeownership Month in style – in her new home.

“I lost everything in Hurricane Katrina,” said Finn. “After sleeping on other people’s floors for seven months and living away from my children, I received a FEMA trailer—and I have been living in it until now.”

Today, Carolyn Finn is living in a new home in Bush—thanks to USDA Rural Development.

“Rural Development came to my rescue,” said Finn. “I really love my new home, and the people at Rural Development worked with me to make it all possible.”

Finn 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.

Cathy Accardo, USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Specialist, worked with Ms. Finn through the application process.

“It is very rewarding to help people achieve homeownership—especially in hurricane-impacted areas,” said Accardo. “In St. Tammany Parish, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$50 million in single family housing loans—and we are looking forward to working with many more home buyers in this area.”

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

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