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**LOCAL NON-PROFIT RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT TO HELP 14 FAMILIES
BECOME HOMEOWNERS – BY BUILDING THEIR OWN HOMES**
**Congressman Charlie Melancon and State Director Clyde Holloway
Present Funds to Family Resources of New Orleans**

PARADIS, August 27, 2007 – Congressman Charlie Melancon joined USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway today in Paradis to present a \$249,900 technical assistance grant to Family Resources of New Orleans to recruit and assist 14 families to become homeowners by building their own homes through Rural Development’s Mutual Self-Help Housing Program.

Using the grant funding, Family Resources of New Orleans (located in Boutte, Louisiana) will recruit and assist 14 families throughout St. Charles, Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes to work together to build their own homes. By investing “sweat equity” these 14 families will achieve substantial savings in the cost of new home construction—making homeownership affordable.

Additionally, USDA Rural Development will provide new home financing for each eligible homeowner.

“Homeownership is a dream for many people,” said Holloway. “The self-help housing program offers families, who may not have been able to afford to purchase a new home, an opportunity to assist in the construction of their own home—substantially bringing down the cost of the home and making it affordable.”

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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