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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW "PROJECT CELEBRATION" BUILDING USDA Rural Development Grant Enables Local Organization to Build New Facility

MANY, November 5, 2008 – USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway joined the Project Celebration Board of Directors today to break ground on a new 5,330 square foot community resource center. The new building will be home to counseling services, youth advocacy programs, and alcohol/drug intervention and prevention programs.

“I commend Project Celebration for their dedication to building a better future for the youth of Sabine Parish,” said Holloway. “Their current building was severely damaged by Hurricane Rita, but with grant funding provided by USDA Rural Development, local contributions, and community support, today they are rebuilding—even better than before.”

\$498,850 in grant funds were awarded for the new building through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program. This program offers grants, loans, and loan guarantees to public entities, such as municipalities, parishes, and special purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments, to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population.

Project Celebration, Inc., is a nonprofit community resource agency located in Many. It was established in 1980 and incorporated in 1989 by citizens of Sabine Parish who were concerned about drugs and violence in their community. Today’s staff of volunteers work with the judicial system, school system, and local organizations to provide training, information, and counseling programs to residents of Sabine Parish.

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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