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## Louisiana

### Success Story:

#### Homeownership Month Town Hall Meeting in Ferriday, Louisiana

##### Outline of Need

Many families view applying for a home loan as a challenge and are intimidated by the required forms. Rural Development and the Town of Ferriday, Louisiana, conducted a town hall meeting to provide a forum for discussion of these barriers.

##### How Rural Development Helped

Financing opportunities, credit worthiness, assets and liabilities, and community development issues highlighted discussions at a packed town hall meeting Monday, June 9, 2003, in Ferriday, Louisiana.

Ferriday Mayor Glen McGlothin and USDA Rural Development State Director Michael B. Taylor led the discussion on homeownership opportunities. “Everyone dreams of owning their own home, but not everybody thinks they can afford it,” said Mayor McGlothin. “I hope this meeting will help open the door for many folks wanting to purchase a home.”

Area lenders from Concordia Bank and Trust, Tensas State Bank, Delta Bank, and Hibernia National Bank were joined by representatives of USDA Rural Development to provide step-by-step information on how to begin the home-buying process.

“Homeownership strengthens our rural communities and adds to the overall quality of life,” said Taylor. “USDA’s Rural Development programs have an excellent track record of building opportunities for homeownership and building stronger communities.”

“The information provided tonight is just a sample of the assistance we can provide at our banks,” said Jennifer Freeman of Delta Bank. “We are all hoping this will encourage people to come visit us and find out about our lending programs.”

##### The Results

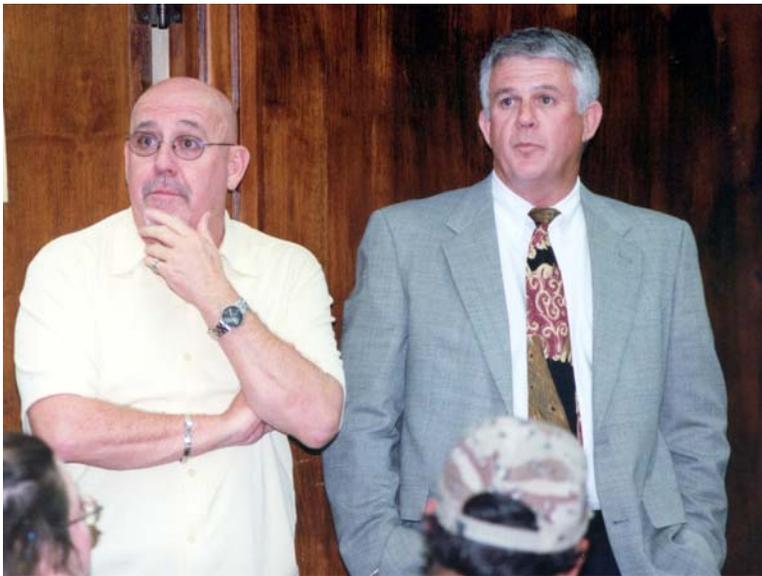
Attendees were so enthusiastic about the information they received, area community leaders are planning follow-up meetings to share homeownership information with even more potential homeowners. As a result of this town hall meeting, many residents of rural Concordia parish were given the tools to begin the process of buying a home, partnerships were forged with area banks, and the door was opened for future meetings.

June 2003

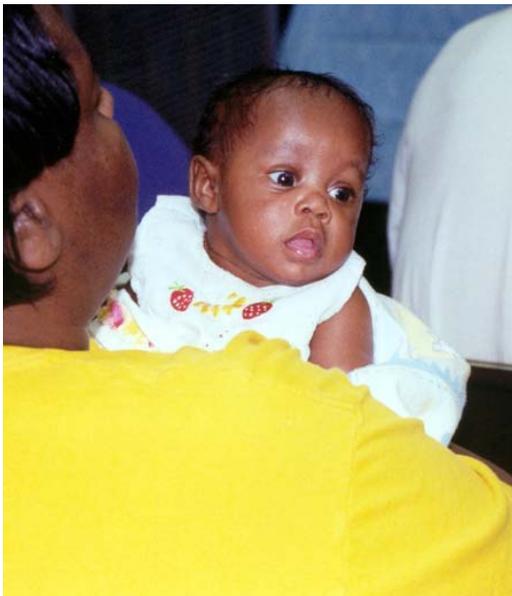
(photographs and captions on pages 2 and 3)



Attendees at Ferriday Homeownership Month Town Hall Meeting review loan application forms.



Ferriday Mayor Glen McGlothlin and State Director Michael B. Taylor respond to questions.



Youngest attendee at Ferriday Homeownership Month Town Hall Meeting.



Panelist, Laurie Vignaud Marshall of Hibernia Bank explains grant options.



Panelist Jennifer Freeman, Delta Bank, explains the loan application form.