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Community Children's Center Opens New Doors



Storrs, CT – Wrapped in a big red ribbon, the newly constructed Community Children's Center welcomed 'pre-scholars' and USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle to a celebration of the centers' grand opening on Mansfield City Road in Storrs today. The new, 2,400 square foot day care facility was constructed with a \$325,000 low interest loan through USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Loan Program.

Formed in 1970 by a group of Mansfield parents, the Community Children's Center is a parent owned and operated cooperative which provides pre-school and day care services to children aged 18 months to 5 years. The center is one of the oldest, continuously open and running childcare centers in the area and currently serves approximately thirty children. Prior to the move to the new facility, the Community Children's Center operated out of the lower level of The Unitarian Fellowship of Storrs.

The USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program administers programs designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through its Community Programs, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over \$27.7 million in assistance to Connecticut's rural communities and families.

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