



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mary Lou Richard 573-364-1479

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS GRANT TO CRAWFORD COUNTY FOUNDATION, INC.

Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO, presented the Crawford County Foundation, Inc., with a \$20,280 Mock Check on Thursday, December 7, 2006. The funds will be used to purchase a bus for a child daycare facility in Cuba, Missouri.

U.S. Representative Hulshof said, "Rural Development funds from USDA ensure that rural communities have access to money for necessary projects. Many projects in the Ninth District have benefited from USDA funds. I'm pleased that we have been able to make this money available to the families served by the Crawford County Foundation."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Developments mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director, USDA Rural Development.

"Thanks to the grant from the USDA, we were able to purchase a 30 passenger bus with child restraint seats safe for even our two year olds. Our teachers have been able to take the children to area locations like the Onondoga Caves, Meremec Springs Park, and the Reptile Ranch in Eureka. Other field trips include the grocery, local farms, and the Post Office. Children learn so much from trips like these. Making education a fun, hand-on experience will improve their understanding of our world and instill a love of learning that will last a lifetime," stated Janell Cheek, Executive Director, All Aboard Learning Center.

Branum added, "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians."

Anyone interested in obtaining regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Mary Lou Richard, Rural Development Manager, at the Rolla Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 1050 Highway 72 East, Rolla, MO 65401-3962 or by calling 573-364-1479.



(Left to Right) Jason Mehl, Crawford County Foundation, Inc. Board Member, Sheila Ringeisen, President, Chamber of Commerce, Cuba, MO, Rachel Andreasson, President, Crawford County Foundation, Inc, Janell Cheek, Director, All Aboard Learning Center, Teresa Switzer, Assistant Director, All Aboard Learning Center, Marylue Richard, Rural Development Manager, USDA, Rural Development, Rolla, MO, Terry A. Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA, Rural Development, Farmington, MO

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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