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# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Catherine L. Coffman (636) 789-3551

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$1.8 MILLION FOR GREAT MINES HEALTH CENTER, INC.

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented Michael L. Johnson, Executive Director/CEO, and Thomas R. Dudley, President, Great Mines Health Center, Inc., with a \$1,809,000 Mock Check on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The funds will be used to construct a new health clinic for Great Mines Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The center will provide primary care, mental health care, and dental care to predominately uninsured and medically underserved populations in Washington County.

U.S. Senator McCaskill said, "Access to good medical care is essential to maintaining high standards of living in rural Missouri. This loan from the federal government will help make quality health care available to more people in Washington County."

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "Rural Missouri is always in need of newer, better, and more qualified health care facilities. This loan to the Great Mines Health Center will be of great benefit to the level of service in Washington County and for the surrounding region. I'm proud to join with USDA Rural Development to express my strong support for this facility and congratulations to the men and women who have worked so hard to make the new health center a reality."



LEFT TO RIGHT: Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO; Greg Branum, State Director, USDA Rural Development, Columbia, MO; Roy Logsden, Chief of Police, City of Potosi; Heather Garner, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office, Farmington, MO; Michael L. Johnson, Executive Director/CEO, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Ben Dyer, District Director, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office, Cape Girardeau, MO; Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, USDA Rural Development, Hillsboro, MO; Jeff Graves, Alderman, Ward #1, City of Potosi; Roger Coleman, City Clerk, City of Potosi; T.R. Dudley, President, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Mayor, City of Potosi; Mary Pat West, Board Member, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Alderwoman, City of Potosi; Donna Blount, Office Manager, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Shirley Goodson, Board Member, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Robert Reed, Presiding Commissioner, Washington County; Donna Martin, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO; Marie Edgar, Board Member, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Todd Moyers, Washington County Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Violet Brooks, Executive Assistance, Great Mines Health Center, Inc.; Randy O'Neil, Washington County Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**Michael L. Johnson, Executive Director/CEO for Great Mines Health Center said, “The importance of Federal assistance in the development and sustainability of Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) through the access of USDA loans strengthens community health care access to uninsured and under insured individuals. The USDA’s dedication and support for FQHC’s is greatly appreciated by Great Mines Health Center.”**

**“Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush’s initiatives for rural America and Rural Development’s commitment to the future of rural communities,” said Branum. “Appreciation is also extended to our Federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for 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 Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, at the Hillsboro Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 10820 Highway 21, Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO 63050 or by calling 636-789-3551.**

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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

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