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Rural Development

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS GREATER ST. CLAIR HOMES, INC. WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR RENTAL HOUSING COMPLEX

Anita J. Dunning, Acting State Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development, announced the selection of Greater St. Clair Homes, Inc. for Rural Developments' new Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) program.

The new MPR program allows for the restructuring of the existing Rural Development loans. The savings helps ensure that the property will have sufficient resources to preserve and maintain the property for many years. The ultimate goal is to extend the life of quality, safe and affordable housing in this community. Participation in the MPR program requires the owner to utilize the money that was formerly going for their mortgage payments to meet the current and future capital needs of the housing complex. A total of 56 income eligible households will benefit from this innovative MPR program.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said, "Adequate and safe housing for our aging population is an important part of every community. Federal funds, in the form of both grants and low-interest loans, will give Greater St. Clair Homes resources that will allow them to better meet the needs of their community."

"All families should be able to find decent, safe and affordable housing," said Dunning. "I am pleased that Rural Development and Elsberry Senior Housing Inc. can make this goal possible. Housing and community revitalization is critical to our state. We are excited about this new program in which housing can be preserved in Missouri and rents will still remain affordable."



Pictured left to right: Ron Blum, Mayor, City of St. Clair; Jim Arndt, City Administrator; Velma Papin, Site Manager; David Hoffman, Farmers & Merchants Bank; Gilbert Hoffman, President, Board of Directors, GSCH; Phil Turner, Ministerial Alliance/Rotary Club; Janice Girardier, GSCH Board Member; Lora Mae Davis, Treasurer, GSCH Board of Directors; Donna Robart, Secretary, GSCH Board of Directors; Pat Prugh, GSCH Board Member; Brenda Edgar, Area Specialist, Rural Development; Don Storie, GSCH Board Member; Janie Dunning, Acting State Director, Rural Development; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Rural Development; Don Hall, GSCH Board Member; Keith Johnson, Maintenance

Greater St. Clair Homes recently qualified for this MPR program after a capital needs assessment identified the needed improvements to the complex. Rural Development is awarding Greater St. Clair Homes \$58,850 in grant funds and \$162,164 loan funds. These funds will be used to make essential capital improvements such as replacement of sidewalks and stoops to eliminate safety hazards, pieing of foundations to eliminate structural problems, and replacement of windows and exterior doors.

Gilbert Hoffman, President of the Board of Directors for Great St. Clair Homes, Inc., said, "Our goal is to take care of the people in this area. All the work we are doing will maintain quality housing for the residents. We want them to have a safe place to live and to feel "at home," because this is their home. We like to have the buildings kept up nice, the grounds and walkways kept clean, and the grass cut in the summer time. The Board is excited about the pieing and the stabilization work already done."

This complex is one of 792 rental housing complexes located in rural Missouri communities that USDA Rural Development has financed. As a result of this, approximately 18,500 households are provided adequate and affordable housing.

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