



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Steven Gerrish 660-263-7400 ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A \$3,025 GRANT TO THE CITY OF HIGBEE

On September 26th, 2007, USDA Rural Development presented the City of Higbee with a mock check for \$3,025. The funds will be used towards the purchase and installation of a storm warning siren system for the City of Higbee.

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program is funding a portion of the weather siren purchase and installation. The City of Higbee contributed \$2,475 towards the total project cost of \$5,500. Community fund raising events helped with the City's contribution.

"Early warning systems can save lives and property," U.S.

Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm happy that federal dollars will help protect Higbee in times of emergency."

"Our first responders provide an invaluable service, and they deserve our support," said Congressman Kenny Hulshof (MO-9). "It is essential that our communities are prepared for emergencies, and I am pleased that the USDA Rural Development has awarded this much-needed funding to the City of Higbee."

"Early warning of tornadoes helps to protect lives," stated Branum. "The agency is proud to have participated in funding this equipment to alert Higbee citizens of severe weather."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum added. "Appreciation is 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."



Pictured left to right: State Representative Therese Sander; Sandra Sumpter, Casey's General Store; Ann Spilman, Higbee City Clerk; Steven Gerrish, USDA Rural Development; Charla Bankhead, Higbee Mayor; Kathy Bartolacci, Higbee Nutrition Center Administrator; and Tim Freeman of Congressman Kenny Hulshof's office.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Steven Gerrish, at the Moberly Rural Development office, 2995 County Road 1325, Moberly, MO 65270 or call the office at 660-263-7400 ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).