



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO IRON COUNTY HOSPITAL

Morris Westfall, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented Ron Hopkins, President of Iron County Hospital with a \$72,050 Mock Check on Wednesday December 17, 2008. The funds will be used to purchase a laboratory software program to improve services and tracking of their lab operations, two Gastrosopes and two Colonoscopes and related equipment which will provide additional services for patients of the Iron County Hospital.



Pictured: Julie Morris, ICH, Ron Hopkins, President, ICH, Frank Mack, Glenda Robinson and Joyce Browers of the William Edgar Foundation, Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Shelby Chan, Mayor of Pilot Knob, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director, Diane Dinkins, ICH Board, Kevin Hinkebein, Area Specialist

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, “This new medical equipment will help the Iron County community live longer and healthier lives. I commend the USDA and Iron County community leaders for investing in this important life and cost saving equipment.”

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, “It is important that we continue to support Missouri’s rural hospitals like the Iron County Hospital. I’m pleased the Iron County Hospital is going to received laboratory and technical equipment to improve its service to their community.”

U.S. Representative JoAnn Emerson said, “Rural Development is a driving force in the development and investment in our rural Missouri communities. This project will greatly contribute to the quality of life, public safety, and economic infrastructure throughout the region. I’m grateful for their strong partnerships with our state and local leaders, and I appreciate the advocacy of our congressional delegation for the projects USDA Rural Development supports.”

Westfall said, “The Iron County Hospital provides essential medical services to their patients. The Gastro/Colonoscopes is an additional medical service that is in high demand. These projects mirror USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank

everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that the community will benefit from the services of the Iron County Hospital.

Iron County Hospital is a new Critical Access Hospital that began services December 2006 and provides acute skilled and emergency medical care for the Arcadia Valley and surrounding area. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal dollars for funding these projects.”

Ron Hopkins, President of Iron County Hospital District states, “On behalf of the Iron County Hospital District Board of Directors and all of the employees of the Iron County Hospital, I want to express my appreciation to the USDA Rural Development Program, and especially Kevin Hinkebein and Terry Luetkemeyer, for working with us and helping us obtain grants for these valuable pieces of equipment. The Laboratory Information System for our clinical laboratory will greatly enhance our ability to get test results to the physicians more quickly and in more detail, and thereby improve patient care. the endoscopy and colonoscopy equipment will now allow us to start outpatient procedures in our operating room, something we have wanted to do for quite some time. Both are significant steps in enhancing healthcare services at Iron county Hospital. We are also grateful to the Iron County Hospital Foundation for providing the remainder of the funds needed to purchase the endoscopy and colonoscopy equipment. In this day and age, hospitals must rely more and more on grants and donations and the USDA and our Foundation are perfect examples of such support.

Pilot Knob Mayor Shelby Chan stated, “I think this is a great opportunity for the hospital to provide more services to the community and that’s always a positive thing.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Rural Development Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 5.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

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