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# NEWS RELEASE

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNER WITH MALDEN NUTRITION CENTER, INC. TO CONSTRUCT NEW BUILDING IN MALDEN**



Names front row only: First person David Black, Board Member; Bill Green (holding shovel) Engineer; Steve Duke, BRPC Executive Director, Connie Duke, BRPC Economic Development Director; Carol Demaree, Board Member; Marilyn Fiddler, Secretary of Malden Nutrition Center; Christy Ferrell, Representing U. S. Senator McCaskill's Office; Betty Qualls, Director of Malden Nutrition Center; Christie Nitch, Representing U. S. Representative. Jo Ann Emerson's Office; CA Walker, Contractor; Ray Santie, President and Mayor of Malden; Betty Leseure, MO Dept. of Economic Development; Greg Batson, USDA Rural Development, Area Director and workers from the Nutrition Center.

On Monday, November 17, 2008, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, hosted a ground breaking ceremony with members of the Missouri Department of Economic Development and Malden Nutrition Center, Inc., to celebrate the start of construction for a new facility to house the Malden Nutrition Center. Funding for the project is being provided through Community Facility Loan funds in the amount of \$634,500 from Rural Development, Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 from the Missouri Department of Economic Development, and land valued at \$20,000 donated by the City of Malden for the construction site.

“Important organizations like the Malden Nutrition Center should be accessible and safe for everyone in the community,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I’m happy that these federal dollars are going to improve this building’s facilities so that everyone in the Malden community can benefit from the resources and health services offered there.”

The Nutrition Center currently provides 50-60 low-cost meals for senior citizens each day in the dining room, and also delivers an average of 150 “Meals on Wheels” each day, Monday through Friday. In addition to meal services, the Nutrition Center is also used for many senior programs, including: health programs, cholesterol clinics, hearing-aid clinics and nutrition education clinics. The present building used by the Nutrition Center has been found to be structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. It was determined that reconstruction of the existing building to meet current codes and requirements was not feasible. The new facility will provide safe, adequate, suitable space for the Nutrition Center to provide the services that are required of them, while being designed to meet all building code requirements.

“This USDA Rural Development loan targets an issue which is extremely important to me: the nutrition of families in our rural counties. A new Nutrition Center in Malden combines grants and loans to make possible a facility focused on the community’s nutritional needs, especially those of children and senior citizens. I’m grateful for the partnership of the City of Malden in this effort, and I look forward to the opportunity to visit a new Nutrition Center in the future,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

“It is truly great when federal, state and local officials recognize a need and work together to provide funding to help a community,” said Westfall. “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri.”

The funding awarded to the Nutrition Center from USDA Rural Development originates from the Community Facilities Direct Loan program. This program is specifically designed for municipalities, counties or non-profit organizations that cannot finance projects from their own resources or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms. The loan purpose is to construct, enlarge, extend or otherwise improve essential community facilities.

Further information regarding Community Facility loans or any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting Tresia Webb at the Kennett Rural Development Office at [tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov](mailto:tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-649-9947, ext. 4. Rural Development’s web site is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo).

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