

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH EAST COMMUNITY ACTION CORP.

On Wednesday, October 8, 2008, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, and staff recognized Don Patrick, Director of North East Community Action Corp. (NECAC) with a Certificate of Appreciation for the excellent partnership in helping individuals and families in rural communities with affordable housing.

“The excellent partnership has been on going for many years,” said Westfall. “We are proud of the staff and the relationship we have with NECAC. We share many of the same values and goals. NECAC’s mission dovetails in with our mission --- “partners in enhancing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life in rural Missouri.”

Westfall added, “NECAC was awarded the prestigious 2008 NeighborWorks Partnership Award with USDA Rural Development (RD) at the national meeting held in August. We salute Carla Potts, Deputy Director for NECAC, and her staff for receiving this national award.”

“We are honored to have helped hundreds of Missouri families live in decent, safe and affordable housing, said Patrick. “This project not only helps families with affordable housing, it also helps communities in maintaining a strong economic base.”

The award centered around the impact on 19 properties and 424 rental units in the counties of Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Warren, Adair, Sullivan and Crawford Counties that would have been lost from the Missouri affordable housing market had the partnership not been developed between NECAC & RD. The partnership took “outside the box” thinking and innovative ideas utilizing different structuring and different funding options. It involved a variety of funding including: Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) Affordable Housing Program tax credits for the donation of the property by the owner to NECAC and low income housing tax credits; the RD Multi-family Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation program (MPR) with debt deferral and funding of the reserve accounts for capital improvements,



Pictured left to right: Karen St. Clair, Assistant Director, Housing Development Programs; Carla Potts, Deputy Director, Housing Development Programs; Don Patrick, President and CEO, North East Community Action Corporation; Janie Dunning, Multi-Family Housing Program Director, USDA Rural Development; and Morris Westfall, State Director, USDA Rural Development.

rental assistance, subsequent loans; and grants from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB).

Janie Dunning, Director of Multifamily Housing Program for USDA Rural Development, said, “The real “bottom line” is that affordable housing of aging multi-family housing projects was saved in several communities plus individuals and families benefit with affordable rental housing. We congratulate NECAC for receiving this national award !”

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

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