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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS ANOTHER FAMILY ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP

On June 15th, Greg Branum, Missouri Rural Development State Director, along with local Rural Development staff, visited the home of Cory & Jaime Hawse in Poplar Bluff. The Hawses were able to purchase their home through the USDA Rural Development Guaranteed Rural Housing Program (GRH). With this program, the Hawses obtained their loan through First Midwest Bank of Poplar Bluff and Rural Development has guaranteed repayment of the loan.

"This is truly a success story when the private sector and the Federal Government can partner to help rural Missourians achieve the dream of homeownership. Creating opportunities for homeownership helps families build equity, improve their financial stability and instill a sense of pride in their community. Everyone benefits with this type of cooperation. I would like to thank Dee Skaggs and First Midwest Bank for partnering with Rural Development and helping so many families and communities," said Greg Branum.



Pictured: Kim Allison, Pam Anglin, Angie Reynolds, Dee Skaggs - Vice President, First Midwest Bank of Poplar Bluff, Karen Sanderson - Poplar Bluff Realty, Jaime Hawse -

The GRH loan program allows a 30-year loan at a fixed interest rate with no down payment for low to moderate income households. There is no maximum purchase price and the maximum loan amount is determined by the buyer's repayment ability. Rural Development guarantees are backed by the Federal Government and do not require Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI), thus resulting in substantial savings to the homebuyer and lower monthly payments.

Dee Skaggs, Vice President at First Midwest Bank, stated, "I have been working with Rural Development guaranteed loans for over 7 years and the program has helped so many homebuyers be able to purchase a home with little or no down payment that otherwise would not have been able to buy a home. I find that these buyers are usually the most appreciative because they know we have gone the extra mile to allow them the opportunity to own a home."

In order to utilize the Guaranteed Rural Housing Program, homebuyers should make application directly with a participating conventional lender. When contacting a lender, interested homebuyers are encouraged to relay to the lender that they are interested in a USDA Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan.

Anyone seeking more information about homeownership financing or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the Rural Development webpage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Angela Reynolds, Rural Development Manager, at angie.reynolds@mo.usda.gov by e-mail. You may also visit our office at 4327 Highway 67 N, Poplar Bluff, MO, or call us at 573-785-9679, extension 4.

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"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).