



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOSTS ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR REYNOLDS COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING

On Wednesday, July 22, 2009, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, and Rural Development staff treated the residents of the Reynolds County Senior Citizen Housing Complex to an ice cream social. The 40-unit complex in Reynolds County is being recognized as a recipient of Rural Development's Multi-Family Preservation and Revitalization Restructuring and Demonstration (MPR) program funds.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, "The renovations at the Reynolds County Senior Citizen Housing Complex are not only critical to the maintenance and preservation of affordable housing for some of our most vulnerable citizens, but also sends an important message that rural communities are not being ignored. I commend USDA Rural Development and the Reynolds County Senior Citizen Housing Complex for revitalizing this housing complex. However, we must continue to do more to expand the availability of affordable housing, especially as the need grows as families and vulnerable individuals struggle in the current economic downturn."

"We rely on affordable housing in rural America to keep our communities vibrant, and this program in Reynolds County offers a great example of how we are constantly working with USDA Rural Development to invest in this priority. Because the U.S. House of Representatives will be in session, I am sorry to not be able to attend this great event, but I would still like to thank all of the people who cooperated to make these improvements to the Reynolds County Senior Citizen Housing Complex. The complex and its residents are a true blessing to our congressional district, and I thank them for remaining so active in our community life," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The MPR program funds awarded to the Reynolds County complex were used to purchase new exterior doors and high efficiency storm doors for all 40 units and the community room. Twenty four housing units and the community room also received new siding, soffits and windows. The remaining funds were used to have a Capital Needs Assessment completed for the complex and to pay for legal fees associated with the MPR program.

"I am really proud of the hard work by the Reynolds County Senior Citizen Housing Complex officials to initiate the steps resulting in the improvements for the complex," said Dunning. "The MPR is an excellent program and Rural Development is pleased to be a partner in the renovation and preservation so that the residents have a nice, comfortable and affordable place to live."

Rural Development's MPR program allows for the restructuring of selected existing rural rental housing loans for the purpose of ensuring that sufficient resources are available to preserve the rental property for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for the elderly residents. The program is available to all existing Section 515 owners and purchasers who meet basic eligibility requirements.



Front row, left to right: Belinda Worthy, Area Technician; Kathy Cagle, Area Specialist; Brenda Edgar, Area Specialist; Angela Reynolds, Area Specialist. Back row, left to right: Colleen James, Multi-Family Housing Specialist; Ron Wakefield, Mayor and Project Manager; Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director; Paula DeMent, Board President; Randal Friend, Area Specialist.

Rural Development administers and manages over 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by congress through a network of 145 employees in Missouri with the state office in Columbia, six Area Offices and twenty-two Sub Area Offices throughout the state. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of over \$114 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information on Rural Development's MPR program, or any other assistance available through USDA Rural Development, may contact the Dexter Area Office at 18450 Ridgeview Lane, Dexter, MO 63841 or by calling 573-624-5939, ext. 4. Information on Rural Development programs is also available on the internet at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/.

Committed to the future of rural communities

"USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer."

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