



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Hinkebein (573) 756-6413 Ext. 4

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson joined Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, to present St. Francois County Community Partnership with a \$16,333 Mock Check on Friday, November 3, 2006. The funds will be used to purchase dental equipment for a Children's Rural Dental Health Clinic.

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "I'm very happy that these funds from USDA Rural Development will be used to purchase dental equipment for the Children's Rural Dental Health Clinic. Access to dental and medical services is a tremendous concern in rural areas, and it takes real dedication to ensure our children get the dental and medical care and attention they need. This is a great opportunity to create a positive effect throughout St. Francois County, and I thank our U.S. Senators, Kit Bond and Jim Talent, for their strong support of this program."



Left to right: Donna Martin, USDA RD Area Specialist, Farmington; Terry Luetkemeyer, USDA RD Area Manager, Farmington; State Representative Jo Ann Emerson; Sharon Wallace, St. Francois County Health Clinic Director; Al Sullivan, Executive Director of the St. Francois County Community Partnership; Debbie Hoehn, St. Francois County Health Clinic Assistant Director; Greg Branum USDA RD State Director

"Branum said. "Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities. He added, "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians."

Al Sullivan, Executive Director of St. Francois County Community Partnership said, "This Grant from USDA Rural Development makes it possible to have the equipment available to assist the dentist to perform much needed dental procedures for the young children in this area. Dental health is the number one health problem of rural children in this area."

Anyone interested in obtaining regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at the Farmington Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 4.

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

*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).*