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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$438,750 TO TEXAS COUNTY HEALTH FUND TO PURCHASE AND RENOVATE A BUILDING

USDA Rural Development State Director Greg Branum was joined by Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson to present a mock check for \$438,750 to the Texas County Health Fund on August 28, 2007. The funding was received from the Community Facility Direct Loan program of USDA Rural Development. The funds were used to purchase and renovate a building to house the Texas County Health Department. The Texas County Health Fund is a non-profit organization serving the 23,003 citizens of Texas County that works within area communities to address under funded and unmet community health needs.

C.J. Smith, Board Chairman of the Texas County Health Department stated, "The health department move to a facility with better access and improved services would not be possible without the cooperative efforts of USDA and the Texas County Health Fund."

"The men and women of rural health departments have a difficult task as they are charged with the safety of the general public and they have to be just as prepared as first responders for a disaster," said Emerson. "The combination of vigilance and preparedness shown by the Texas County Health Fund is a tremendous cause for congratulations. In addition, they have earned a USDA Rural Development loan which will enable the county's health department to even better serve our citizens!"

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Branum. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."



Front Row: Toni Coomes, Board Member; Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director; Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson; Sally Smith, Board Member; Ron Stone, Board Member; Dianne Ingalls, Board Member; Bill Bridges, Board Member; CJ Smith, Board Member; Sandra Smith, Board Member

Other people in the photos are: Representatives from Senator Bonds and Senator McCaskill's offices; Board Members from the Texas County Health Fund and Health Department, Texas County Memorial Hospital Staff; Chamber members, radio station staff; Rural Development staff, and other community members.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or can contact Robert Strickland, Rural Development Manager, at the Houston Office, 6726B South Highway 63, Houston, MO 65483 or by calling (417) 967-2028 ext 3.

“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).