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Rural Development

NEWS RELEASE

TEXAS COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES \$740,000 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN

U. S. Senator Kit Bond joined USDA Rural Development State Director, Janie Dunning, to present a mock check and attend a ground breaking ceremony at the site of the new health clinic and ambulance base in Mountain Grove on Thursday, August 13, 2009. Texas County Memorial Hospital (TCMH) received a \$740,000 USDA Rural Economic Development Loan to finance the construction of the new facility. The loan to the hospital was made possible through the participation of Se-Ma-No Electric Cooperative in the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan program, which provides zero-interest loans to rural electric cooperatives for community development projects. The project is expected to create 15 new jobs, as well as continue to foster growth and support of critical community infrastructure.

“As access to quality health care continues to be a critical issue for much of rural America, we need to continue to invest

in our rural Missouri health care facilities, which provide important services and jobs. I commend USDA Rural Development, SE-MA-NO Electric Cooperative, and the Texas County Memorial Hospital for investing in this new health clinic and ambulance base while continuing to provide better access, support, and quality of health care for Wright County residents,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond.

“In Congress, health care issues are always at the front of my agenda – working to lower costs, improve access, and make sure quality care remains available in rural parts of Missouri. Nothing better serves these purposes than programs which facilitate the direct investments of our communities in their own systems of care, and this Rural Development Economic Loan will enable Mountain Grove and Texas County Memorial Hospital to partner up for the benefit of our rural health care system. I very much appreciate the commitment of everyone involved to making sure a health clinic and an ambulance base are in place for Mountain Grove residents” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.



Shown here breaking ground are: (left to right) Mark Forbes, TCMH Board of Trustees member; Delbert Crewse, Mayor of Mountain Grove; Janie Dunning, State Director, Rural Development; Don Wells, 147th District State Representative; Tony Dugger, 144th District State Representative; JoAnn Emerson, US House of Representatives; Kit Bond, US Senate; Omanez Fockler, TCMH Board of Trustees chairperson; Wes Murray, TCMH Chief Executive Officer; Rick Otersky, Mountain Grove City Administrator; Chuck Purgason, 33rd District State Senator; Jim Carpenter, Se-Ma-No Electric Cooperative Manager, and Rex Epperly, Wright County Presiding Commissioner.

Wes Murray, Chief Executive Officer of TCMH expressed his appreciation, “Once again, it’s such a privilege to be a recipient of the generous programs available through USDA. It’s so encouraging for rural health systems to have electric cooperatives such as Se-Ma-No working closely with departments like the USDA to identify needs in rural health care. This project will expand emergent and non-emergent services in a rural area and it would not have been possible without their teamwork and commitment.”

Se-Ma-No Electric Cooperative General Manger, Jim Carpenter said, “We want to thank the USDA and our elected officials for their willingness to work for Se-Ma-No member owners in creating opportunities for small business development and improve the quality of health care in rural communities. This partnering is enhancing the quality of community life for Mountain Grove.”

Dunning said, “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Mark Dethrow, Area Specialist, at 6726 S. Hwy 63 Suite B, Houston, MO 65483-2701 or by calling (417) 967-2028 extension 3 or by email to mark.dethrow@mo.usda.gov.

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