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# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$1,814,200 TO THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE

On Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, Missouri Rural Development State Director, Greg Branum, and local Rural Development staff presented a mock-check in the amount of \$1,814,200 to Diane Sayre, Mayor, City of Caruthersville. The check represents the amount of federal funds provided to the City from USDA Rural Development since the devastating tornado of April 2, 2006. Along with the presentation of the mock-check, several key members of the community were awarded with Certificates of Appreciation for their roles in the recovery efforts following the tornado.



Mayor Sayre stated, "Rural Development has been a wonderful partner for the City of Caruthersville since we were hit by the F-3 tornado on April 2, 2006. They have been proactive in assisting with our housing long term recovery plan. Without their help we could not have made the progress we have in our efforts to rebuild and rehab the many homes that were destroyed and/or damaged. Working to help rural America is what rural development is all about and our community is certainly a beneficiary of the programs and work that USDA Rural Development can do."

Front Row: Irene Fields; Marsha Mills- DAEOC; Representative Terry Swinger; Mayor Diane Sayre; Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director; Tresia Webb- Rural Development Manager, Kennett local office; Charles Whittenburg- Contractor

Middle Row: Odessia Jones and Jo Ann Thomas, homeowners; Christina King, Housing Resource Coordinator; David Madison, Pemiscot County Economic Development; Dan Hostetler, Christian Aid Ministries; Angela Filmore, Long Term Recovery Team; Gordon Waller, 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank & Trust; Chuck Whittenburg, Contractor

Back Row: Mary Johnson, homeowner; Tasha Treece, DAEOC; John Ferguson, Pemiscot County Economic Development; Pam Anglin, Rural Development Area Director; Rev. Kenny Lee, Ministerial Alliance; Robert Ball, Contractor

Since the tornadoes devastation Rural Development (RD) has been able to provide assistance to 35 families for a total of \$979,200. The funds provided were used for the construction or purchase of new homes and to repair damaged homes. The Delta Area Economic Opportunity Commission (DAEOC) was also awarded \$835,000 in funds to construct a new Head Start building in the City of Caruthersville which is planned for completion in August, 2008.

"I commend Mayor Sayre for her aggressive approach following the devastating tornado. Having known her for many years I have on many occasions witnessed her strong commitment for her city. And when the chips were really down, Diane stood tall for Caruthersville and its citizens," stated Branum. "The Mayor was also a key player in the new Head Start facility by ensuring a building site was available.

**We at Rural Development are proud to be a partner with Mayor Sayre and the citizens of Caruthersville.”**

**Jean Barnham, Executive Director of DAEOC, said, "While the 2006 tornado was devastating for Caruthersville, the partnership of the City of Caruthersville, DAEOC, MACO and Rural Development will turn at least one section of the devastated area into a real community asset by providing attractive, affordable homes, open space, and a new Head Start center easily accessible to the community that it serves. We feel fortunate to be able to be a part of such a beneficial project to the community and we appreciate the hard work and cooperation of our partners and the Caruthersville community. DAEOC plans to be a part of other projects that will have such a high impact on the community."**

**"I have enjoyed collaborating with Tresia Webb, RD Manager, and her staff. Through our partnership, we have done much more than repair and rebuild homes, we have changed lives," stated Christina King, Housing Resource Coordinator for the City of Caruthersville.**

**Further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Kennett Rural Development Office at [tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov](mailto:tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-888-6664, ext. 4. Rural Development’s web site is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo).**

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