



NEWS RELEASE

Committed to the future of rural communities

USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS WITH NEW MADRID COUNTY LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE TO ASSIST RISCO RESIDENT

During the excessive rains and storms last September, Ms. Alvie Wallace of Risco received damage to her roof and floors. With the help of her friend, Paula Pearson of Risco, she contacted the New Madrid County Long Term Recovery Committee and USDA, Rural Development.

The Long Term Recovery Committee was formed last fall after the storms to bring together local, State and Federal agencies along with volunteers from the affected communities in an effort to assist with the residents needs due to the storms. The committee involved representatives from USDA, Rural Development, New Madrid County Commission, New Madrid Co. Health Department, New Madrid Family Resource Center, SEMO Health Network, DAEOC, SEMA, Lions Club, American Red Cross to list a few.



Tracy Jordan, Rural Development Specialist for Rural Development stated “It was definitely a group effort in bringing Ms. Wallace the assistance she needed.” After Rural Development inspected her home it was determined that it was not cost effective to have the existing home repaired. Work then began for Ms. Wallace to find another home. She admits that she was at first hesitant to leaving her home but then accepted that due to its condition that it was in her best interest to find another place to live. Mrs. Jordan further stated “I spoke to Ms. Wallace about the possibility of moving to an apartment in another town but Ms. Wallace wouldn’t hear of it. She did not want to leave all of her friends in Risco. She told me that she had never had a cross word with anyone in town and loved them all like her family”.

Soon a house next door to her brother had a For Sale sign in its yard and with the help of USDA, Rural Development, Paula Pearson, local churches and others in Risco, Ms. Wallace now owns this home. Through USDA, Rural Development’s 502 Direct Loan Program, Ms. Wallace was able to obtain a loan to buy a home at affordable rates and terms and no down payment. For qualifying homebuyers, payments may be subsidized which lowers the monthly payment based on the household income.



Ms. Wallace says that she “couldn’t be happier”. “My life is full” says Wallace. “I go through each room and give thanks. Even at this late stage in life I feel as though I’m getting to start over” she added. For years Ms. Wallace has been mostly home bound due to her health and the fact that her home was not very accessible for her wheel chair. In her new home this has changed. Pleasant View General Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church in Risco banded together and built a ramp for the home. For the first time in nine years Ms. Wallace is now able to attend church services. Ms. Wallace states that she would like to thank everyone involved in making this possible.



Left to right:: Ms. Jerry Latham, Long Term Recovery Committee, Paula Pearson, Risco Volunteer, Tonya Carruth, Long Term Recovery Committee, Keenan Carlyle, Contractor, Tracy Jordan, Rural Development, Alvie Wallace, Homebuyer (seated)

Recently USDA, Rural Development presented Certificates of Appreciation to Jerry Latham and Tonya Carruth of the New Madrid Long Term Recovery Committee and Paula Pearson of Risco in appreciation of the assistance given to help Ms. Wallace.

To obtain more information on this program please contact USDA, Rural Development at 831 S Hwy 105, Charleston, MO 63834 or by calling (573) 649-9947 ext 4.

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