



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

William L. Guy Federal Building • 220 East Rosser Ave. • Room 208 • Bismarck, ND 58502  
Phone: (701) 530-2037 • Fax: (701) 530-2111 • TDD: (701) 530-2113 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

Contact:  
Samantha Evenson (701) 425-4846

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

*USDA housing programs help expand and protect the American Dream*

**NEW ROCKFORD**, June 29, 2010 – Each year Rural during National Homeownership Month, Rural Development recognizes that all American families deserve the opportunity to live the American Dream. This year's national theme is "Protecting the American Dream."

In celebration of National Homeownership Month, USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today joins Louis and Janet Guler, Mayor Jim Belquist, and community neighbors to highlight Rural Development's success in providing homeownership opportunities.

"A strong Nation is made up of strong families, and safe, quality housing contributes greatly to rural Americans' quality of life," said Schneider. "We are pleased to play a vital role in the Obama administration's commitment to ensure that rural communities are vibrant and thriving."



*USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider presents Louis and Janet Guler with a certificate of appreciation during homeownership month.*

Louis and Janet Guler, elderly homeowners in New Rockford, were in need of making some exterior repairs to their 1920's home. After learning about Rural Development through an article in "Free stuff for seniors" by Matthew Lesko, the Gulers applied for assistance in the summer of 2008 and were approved for Rural Development's 504 Grant program. The removal of the home's chimney and the installation of a new roof were completed in 2009, once again making their home safe and free of health and safety hazards.

When asked how they feel about Rural Development, Mrs. Guler replied, "Wonderful...it's just a wonderful program for people in need like us and we are very grateful for the assistance."

"Just as we are committed to helping new homeowners purchase their piece of the American Dream, so are we committed in keeping American families in their homes," continued Schneider. "This is a great opportunity for us to assist the greatest generation to be able to continue living safely in their homes and in their communities."

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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