

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY EMPLOYEES

Belcourt, January 27, 2009. . . During a Tribal Briefing in Belcourt yesterday, Rural Development Housing Program Director, Mark Wax, presented a certification of appreciation to Norman McCloud, infrastructure specialist, on behalf of Path to Prosperity (P2P) employees.

P2P employees were recognized for their assistance in identifying individuals in the community that needed USDA Rural Development SFH loan and grant assistance. They assisted the applicants with the application paperwork, helped individual home owners identify needed repairs, provided technical support in finding individuals to complete the repairs to the home and acted as liaison to Rural Development employees in the Minot Area Office in providing assistance to the applicants.



Since the beginning of the partnership with P2P, Rural Development received 27 applications for single family housing assistance. This resulted in 12 families receiving grants to repair health and safety concerns in their homes; two families receiving one percent interest repair loans to repair their homes; and one family realizing the dream of home ownership, for a total of \$164,829 in housing assistance to the Turtle Mountain community.

Because of the efforts by P2P, 15 of the 25 approved applications resulted in a 60 percent success rate, where in previous years; the success rate for applications in the same area was less than ten percent. This increase is credited only by the quality of support provided by P2P in identifying those in need of assistance.