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# NEWS RELEASE

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## HEARTLAND CARE CENTER TO EXPAND FACILITY

**DEVILS LAKE**, Dec. 8, 2010 – Lake Region Lutheran Home, Inc. is in the planning stages of a \$7.8 million expansion and renovation of its Heartland Care Center, specifically designed with dementia care in mind. Through USDA Rural Development, the project will have the financing to add more than 16,000 square feet to the 74-bed skilled nursing facility.

“As our population ages, it is critical to make investments into infrastructure that provides them security and comfort,” said Jasper Schneider, USDA Rural Development State Director. This expansion will help Lake Region continue their efforts in providing residents with high quality, specialized care that is closer to home, family and friends.”

The traditional design of older nursing homes is not conducive for the optimum care of residents with Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementia. The expansion will include a special care unit extended off the nursing home. The new wing will provide a smaller scale, secure environment that will allow residents to thrive at their current condition until which time they need the care of a typical nursing room. Furthermore, residents and families in Devils Lake have had to travel 45 miles to the closest special care unit. This project aims to provide the dedicated healthcare services within the local community.

“This project has been in my sights since I came back to Devils Lake and to Heartland Care Center in 2004,” said Karissa Olson, CEO of Lake Region Lutheran Home, Inc. “This is so important to the community and it is heart-breaking to see our residents and their families have to leave their hometown to get the care they deserve to receive right here in Devils Lake. I am so thankful that USDA and Ramsey Bank have stepped up to help make this a reality.”

There have been two phases in upgrading the Heartland Care Center. In 2008, Phase one included a \$1.4 million renovation to the existing facility. The second phase will continue with renovations and expand the Care Center by adding two additions. The first addition will include an 11,100 square feet for a 16-bed memory loss unit while another 5,300 square feet will be added for a multi-purpose room and office space. In conjunction with the expansion, an additional 17,593 square feet will be remodeled. The project will also include further upgrades for life-safety considerations such as automatic fire sprinklers, ADA compliancy and energy efficiency; mechanical and electrical upgrades; and improved aesthetics. The second phase is expected to be completed in the summer of 2012.

The total project is estimated to cost \$7,833,857 million with USDA Rural Development providing a \$3,861,973 direct loan and \$3,861,973 guaranteed loan through Ramsey National Bank and Trust of Devils Lake and the Bank of North Dakota. Lake Region Lutheran Home contributed the remaining funds.

Lake Region Lutheran Home is composed of the Heartland Care Center; Heartland Courts consisting of 49 licensed assisted living apartments; Heartland Therapy which offers inpatient and outpatient therapy service; and Heartland Childcare Center.

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