



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOUSING PROGRAM HELPS INDIVIDUAL REALIZE THE AMERICAN DREAM

"Home, sweet home."

BOWMAN, June 14, 2007— Clare Carlson, State Director for USDA Rural Development in North Dakota, and other Rural Development staff members, today visited the home of Darwin Magnuson to personally congratulate and honor him in recognition of June as National Homeownership Month.

The visit is part of a series of events held throughout the nation by USDA Rural Development in celebration of June as National Homeownership Month and President George W. Bush's initiative to increase homeownership opportunities.

"Homeownership is important to individuals, families, and communities," said Carlson. "We are excited for Darwin who now is experiencing the American dream of homeownership. Today's event re-enforces Rural Development's commitment in helping rural Americans achieve the dream of homeownership."

Darwin always dreamed of owning his own home. After seeking assistance from Rural Development, he purchased a single-family home and qualified as first-time home buyer using Rural Development's 502 Direct Loan program.

In honor of Darwin, a Colorado blue spruce tree is planted in his yard.

Our thanks go out to the Bowman County Soil Conservation District and Mike Sondeland for their assistance in obtaining and planting the tree for this special occasion.

In Fiscal Year 2006, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$56.6 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

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

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