



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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DEDICATION CEREMONY HELD FOR RED CLOUD COMMUNITY CENTER

Red Cloud, Neb., April 19 – The official grand opening of the \$1.1 million Red Cloud community center took place today. This facility will provide the City of Red Cloud's 1,200 residents with a place to hold functions such as fellowship, recreational, social and cultural events, family reunions, weddings, receptions, and dances.

"Rural Development takes great pride in assisting in the construction of facilities such as the community center," stated Jim Barr, state director for USDA Rural Development. "Rural communities need a common place to gather, it is part of what keeps communities strong."

USDA Rural Development assisted in financing the center through a \$865,400 loan made in May of 2001. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development provided additional funding with a grant of \$250,000. The remaining \$25,000 was contributed by the City of Red Cloud.

"Red Cloud has needed a community center for quite some time. Too many of our citizens have had to use facilities in neighboring towns," stated Don Theobald, city administrator for Red Cloud. "Now we have our own community center and everyone is excited."

The approximately 9,500 square foot community center was constructed, as the community presently did not have a facility of this nature. The residents of Red Cloud previously had used the Veterans Memorial Building located at the site of the new community center. This building was demolished in 1993 due to its age and handicap accessibility issues.

Residents of Red Cloud identified the development of the community center as a priority through the results of a community assessment completed in 1998. They supported this determination through the authorization of a one-percent sales tax in 1996 to help finance the community center.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the USDA whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

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