



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA Rural Development Funds Million Dollar Business Consolidation Project, Saves Local Jobs

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, Apr. 23, 2007** – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$1.15 financing package to Starr Manufacturing, Inc. to fund a business consolidation project. The project is located in Trumbull County, Ohio.

“At a time when the state is losing jobs this project makes a positive statement about the resolve of Ohio’s rural community businesses,” said Hunt. “Starr Manufacturing’s leadership has made a commitment to Trumbull County’s economic future.”

Rural Development’s funding, a guaranteed loan administered through National City Bank, will be used to consolidate Starr Manufacturing’s operations. Starr’s efforts will ensure the company’s 62 jobs remain in the community while creating an additional 18 jobs. During Fiscal Year 2006 Rural Development’s Business Program invested more than \$28 million throughout Ohio and helped create or save rural 1,664 jobs.

“National City is pleased to work with USDA Rural Development to provide the means for Starr Manufacturing to prosper and grow in our community. Our bank has been the source of financial support for individuals, families and businesses in the Youngstown region for more than a century and a half. Taking care of our customers and our communities will always be a priority for National City,” said Ted Schmidt, senior vice president, National City Corporate Banking.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling 614-255-2400, visiting a local USDA Rural Development office or by viewing USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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(From Left) John Stilliana, representing Sen. George Voinovich's office, Garry Mrozek, National City Bank eastern region president, Congressman Timothy Ryan, Andreas Foerster, president Starr Manufacturing, Inc., Rev. John Temple and Randy Hunt, state director USDA Rural Development, gather to celebrate the \$1.15 million Rural Development financing package awarded to Starr Manufacturing. Starr will use the financing to consolidate its business operations, preserving 62 local jobs.