



NEWS RELEASE

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Rural Development Joins Senator Voinovich and other Funders to Celebrate Jackson County's \$2 Million Child Development Center

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Sept. 17, 2007 – USDA Rural Development joined U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, community members and other financiers to help celebrate the Grand Opening of the new \$2 million, 10,840 square foot Jackson County Child Development Center.

“Identifying quality, affordable childcare is one of the most crucial tasks Ohio’s rural working families face,” said Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt. “It’s an honor to work with legislative leaders like Senator Voinovich to fill some of these vital service needs for rural Ohio families.”

The new child development center, which is more than twice the size of the previous location, provides increased space so the staff can expand services to area families seeking childcare. This updated facility will enable Jackson County Child Development Center to provide care for up to 158 children, from newborn to age 10.

Voinovich worked to secure \$695,050 in grant funds from HUD’s Neighborhood Initiative and Economic Development Initiative Programs. This funding was leveraged with \$639,000 from USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program, \$402,500 from the Child Development Center of Jackson County and \$300,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Total funding for the project was \$2,036,550.

Rural Development’s Community Facility Program uses grants and loans to help communities develop essential facilities for public use. These facilities include libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

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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(From Left) U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, Randy Hunt, state director, USDA Rural Development, Gary Stiffler, chairman, Jackson County Child Development Center's Governing Board and Marlene Ray, executive director, Jackson County Child Development Center celebrate the grand opening of their newly completed \$2 million childcare facility. The new 10,000 plus square foot facility will help provide childcare to more than 150 children.