



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
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Date: February 9, 2009  
Release Number TX 108.09

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONGRATULATES ST. MARY'S CHARTER SCHOOL

**BEEVILLE, TEXAS, February 9, 2009**—Scooter Brockette, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, announced St. Mary's Charter School was selected to receive a \$1,130,000 Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan with the financing lender, Self Help Credit Union.

The funds will be used to construct a 3,000 square foot multipurpose building and a 6,000 square foot open pavilion. The multipurpose building will house three kindergarten classes and the open pavilion will provide space for recess and physical education programs. These two buildings will allow the school to accommodate their growing enrollment and offer more comprehensive scholastic and athletic programs to their student body.

Self Help Credit Union, the financing lender, is a mission driven credit union which strives to create and protect ownership and economic opportunity for underserved communities. "Due to St. Mary's diverse student population, strong leadership, rural location and history of academic excellence, funding new classroom space and an outdoor recreation area for the school was a great mission fit for our organization. We were eager to provide financing but a lack of collateral for the project led us to the USDA Rural Development Guarantee Loan Program and enabled us to provide low cost financing," commented Michelle Newman, a representative of Self Help Credit Union.

"St. Mary's Academy Charter School currently serves 300 plus, mostly underprivileged, students in Bee County and the surrounding area and we were in desperate need of expansion. The USDA Guaranteed Loan made our construction project possible with the determination and persistence of the Alice Area Office Staff. We look forward to working with USDA in the future as we move into the next phase of our Master Plan," said Charles McCameron, Project Manager of St. Mary's Academy Charter School.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Alice Area Office at (361) 668-0453, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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