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News Release

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSING RENOVATION IN HIDALGO COUNTY

Edinburg, Texas, September 30, 2003--Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development today announced that Border Dreams was awarded a $212,588 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). The Rural Housing Service, an agency that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area, administers programs designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the sustainable development of communities, USDA Rural Development works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

"USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans," said Daniel. "It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features."

USDA funds will be used to provide assistance to low and very-low income families with problems of overcrowding, installation/repair of water and waste disposal systems, energy conservation, electrical re-wiring, structural supports and foundations, roofing problems, and interior/exterior rehabilitation. Border Dreams will provide services to 12 households who have incomes at or below 90% of the very-low and low-income ceiling. The targeted areas will be exclusively in the empowerment zone, located in Hidalgo County and known as the Delta Area. The Delta Area consists of the cities of Edcouch, La Villa, and Monte Alto. This area has high concentration of economically disadvantage households.

The purpose of the HPG program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the USDA Local Service Center in Edinburg at (956) 383-4928, ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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