



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING

DALHART, TEXAS, February 23, 2006—Paco Valentin, USDA Rural Development Community Programs Director, today participated in a ribbon cutting event celebrating the grand opening of Legacy Assisted Living, a facility operated by Dallam-Hartland County Hospital District. The facility was constructed through the assistance of the Agency's Community Facilities Loan Program. It consists of 18 studio, 6-one bedroom, and 2 deluxe units which complement the existing nursing home and hospital. On-site food services are offered and medical assistance is readily available.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Valentin. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance their quality of life."

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility direct and guaranteed loans were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

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 Amarillo Local Office at (806) 468-8600, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.



Participating in a ribbon cutting for Legacy Assisted Living include (left to right): Clyde Jenkins, USDA Rural Development Manager, Paco Valentin, USDA Rural Development Community Programs Director, Sieto Mellema, Dallam-Hartley Board President, Leroy Schaffner, CEO Coon Memorial Hospital, Lori Elliott, Administrator Coon Memorial Nursing Home.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

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