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Contact: Anita Rios Moore  
802-828-6006

## **Butterfield Commons' Dennis Peters Receives 2007 Site Manager of the Year Award from USDA Rural Development**

Montpelier, VT, November 7, 2008 – USDA Rural Development is pleased to announce the selection of Dennis Peters, as the Vermont Rural Development Multi-Family Housing – 2007 Site Manager of the Year. Criteria for award selection includes curb appeal and tenant satisfaction.

Mr. Peters, an employee of Stewart Property Management and Site-Manager/resident at Butterfield Commons in West Dover, VT received the 2007 Site-Manager Award at the Tri-State Managers annual meeting held at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT this past October. The Montpelier Area Office Multi-Family Housing employees, who work with Rural Development elderly and family complex owners and managers throughout the state, received Mr. Peters' nomination with high recommendations from his employer, Stewart Property Management and Butterfield Commons' tenants.

The maintenance duties provided by Mr. Peters to the tenants at Butterfield Commons, a 26 unit elderly complex, range from routine spring, fall and winter clean-up and precautionary winter safety measures, to minor plumbing and building repairs. The tenants at Butterfield Commons recognize the value of Mr. Peters presence and his commitment to assuring the facility is safe, clean, and comfortable. "Mr. Peters has been a steadying influence who has worked above and beyond." said Paul Stewart, President of Stewart Property Management. "His reliability and promptness in answering all of the calls at any time of day or night is an example of the fine workmanship that Stewart Property Management relies on from any of its employees."

Beyond his responsibilities as Site Manager, Mr. Peters and his wife Marion, provide services such as the occasional transportation to and from medical appointments or the hospital, and meals to tenants caring and visiting loved ones away from the complex. "Dennis and Marion make it feel so much like home." said one Butterfield Commons tenant.

USDA Rural Development has 68 properties with over 1600 units in its Vermont portfolio. These complexes provide affordable rental housing to income eligible families, elderly, and persons with disabilities. "It requires a great deal of commitment by the owners and management companies to keep these facilities safe and affordable." said Jolinda LaClair, State Director for USDA Rural Development. "Knowing there are individuals like Mr. Peters at many of the facilities we monitor, addressing immediate tenant needs and taking pride in the property's appearance, makes our job easier."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in Rural America. This is done by providing financial and technical assistance to foster growth and new opportunities for business development, home ownership, and critical community and technology infrastructure. To learn more about USDA Rural Development programs visit the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt>.