

# National Homeownership Month

## June 2003

In celebration of National Homeownership Month USDA Rural Development participated in events sponsored by Baldwin Telecom, Inc., in Baldwin, WI, and Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation, in Delevan, WI. Activities highlighted the importance of offering every American the opportunity to achieve their dream of homeownership and the partnerships that contribute to making that dream a reality and support rural communities.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> USDA Rural Development officials joined Baldwin Telecom and representatives from community organizations for a "Celebration of Rural Partnerships." The celebration included a tour of area businesses and community institutions including; the Baldwin- Woodville School System, Baldwin Care Center, Baldwin Area Medical Center, the Prairie View development in the Village of Woodville and Trient Technologies. Each of the businesses showcased how they have utilized funding from Rural Development to better serve the residents of Baldwin with advanced community services. USDA Rural Development State Director, Frank Frassetto, presented Baldwin Telecom, Inc. with a "Certificate of Achievement" recognizing Baldwin Telecom's broadband services initiatives as well as the company's overall achievement in building partnerships and sustaining economic growth in rural areas. Baldwin Telecom is the first Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) in Wisconsin to secure Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding and deploy a state of the art Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband network.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> the Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation celebrated its achievements and partnership with the USDA Rural Housing Program with a block party and tour of homes in Delevan. The Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation, based in Burlington, has used USDA Rural Development technical assistance grants provided through the Rural Housing Program to assist hundreds of families in becoming first time homeowners. The block party and tour in Delevan showcased the Self-Help subdivision recently completed and included an announcement from USDA officials that more technical assistance money was approved for Southeastern Housing Corporation. Carolyn



Mark Miller, Trient Technologies, Larry Kneendorf, Baldwin Telecom general manager and Frank Frassetto, USDA Rural Development State Director, display work done at Trient Technologies in Woodville. The business received RUS funding secured through Baldwin Telecom.

Bell, Branch Chief for Single Family Housing Direct Loan programs (Washington D.C. National office) made the announcement during her remarks and presented a check for the \$873,240 grant to expand the Self-Help program. Art Gonzales, Executive Director of SWHC and the Corporation Board members were presented with a "Certificate of Achievement" by WI Rural Development Housing Director Peter Kohlen for their commitment and accomplishments in the expansion of homeownership opportunities to minority populations, particularly Hispanic families. Kohlen also presented Lakeview Financial of Lake Geneva, WI with a "Certificate of Appreciation" recognizing their efforts in expanding minority homeownership opportunities in southeast Wisconsin. In the last 18 months, over 60 percent of the loans originated by Lakeview Financial through Rural Development's Guaranteed Housing Program have been to Hispanic families.

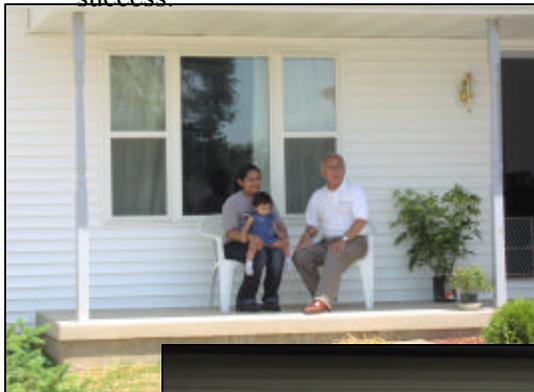
These events have highlighted the importance of partnerships in making the homeownership dream a reality for Wisconsin residents and the accomplishments of Rural Development Programs which have made this Homeownership Month a success.



Above: Participants in the awards ceremony on June 18th at Baldwin Telecom, from left to right, Mark Auman, Assistant to WI Representative Ron Kind, Jan Nelson, Woodville Village Clerk, Mark Miller, Trient Technologies, Gary Doktor, Baldwin Area Medical Center, Eileen LaFavor, Baldwin Care Center Administrator, Frank Frassetto, USDA State Director, Larry Kneendorf, Baldwin Telecom General Manager, Don McGee, Baldwin Village Board President, Wayne Jorewicz, RUS General Field Representative for southern WI, Keith Carlson, Optical Solutions, Steve Coyner, RUS General Field Representative for northern WI and Marjorie Bunce, Assistant to U.S. Senator Herb Kohl.

Above Center: Art Gonzales, Executive Director of Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation and

Above Right: Award recipients on June 28th in Delevan, WI, from left to right, Peter Kohlen, USDA Rural Development Housing Program Director, Carolyn Bell, Branch Chief for Single Family Housing Direct Loan Programs, Washington D.C., Art Gonzales, Executive Director of SWHC, Rand Bersch, Single Family Housing Specialist, Victoria Morales and Don Keller, Lakeview Financial Services.



## Other AWARD Recipients

### West Bend Local Office

Darlene Fehrman of ISB- Certificate of Appreciation  
Sandra Oestreich -Achieving the goal of Homeownership  
Assured Mortgage of Lake Mills- Certificate of Appreciation  
Assured Mortgage of Mayville- Certificate of Appreciation  
Assured Mortgage of Fond du Lac- Certificate of Appreciation

### Stevens Point Local Office

June Walls- Achieving Homeownership  
Debra Mc Donald- Achieving Homeownership  
Tina Wiedenhof- Achieving Homeownership  
Wendy Younger- Achieving Homeownership  
Brian & Jamie Brock- Achieving Homeownership

### Portage Local Office

Fairway Independent Mortgage, Portage- Certificate of Appreciation  
Fairway Independent Mortgage, Baraboo- Certificate of Appreciation  
Amcore Bank, Sauk City- Certificate of Appreciation  
Amcore Bank, Portage- Certificate of Appreciation  
Acuity Bank, Adams- Certificate of Appreciation  
Reedsburg Bank- Certificate of Appreciation  
Renewal Unlimited, Inc.- Certificate of Appreciation  
Central Wisconsin Community Action Council  
Movin' Out- Certificate of Appreciation  
Carol Laursen- Achieving Homeownership

Martha Clark- Achieving Homeownership  
Jerome & Jessica Perea and Family- Achieving Homeownership  
**Black River Falls Local Office**  
Kristi Hoag, Farmers Merchants Bank - Million Dollar Lender First Bank in Tomah- Shining Star Award

### Barron Local Office

Paul & Jennifer VosBenkowski- Achieving Homeownership  
John Bencimino- Achieving the goal of Homeownership  
Kenneth & Shirley Near- Achieving the goal of Homeownership  
The River Bank- Certificate of Appreciation  
Westconsin Credit Union- Certificate of Appreciation

### Dodgeville Local Office

Oscar & Shanelle Sanchez- Achieving Homeownership  
John Digman, Mound City Bank- Certificate of Appreciation

### Menomonie Local Office

George Witt- Certificate of Appreciation  
Dennis Myhre- Certificate of Appreciation  
Judy Barnhardt- Certificate of Appreciation  
Travis Udelhofen, S&C Bank- Certificate of Appreciation

### Fond du Lac Local Office

Marian Koellner- "Homeowner of the Year"  
Wendy Conto, Community Bank & Trust, Sheboygan- Certificate of Appreciation