



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 17, 2008

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Greensburg Welcomes Families Back Home Through Special USDA Housing Program *First Ten New Homes Completed, More Planned*

Greensburg, KS. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks was joined by over 100 family members and community leaders from Greensburg and Kiowa County, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the first ten (10) new homes to be constructed under the Agency-supported *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program*. After the dedication ceremony, self-guided home tours of the affordable single-family 'green' homes built under this sweat-equity program for residents returning to Greensburg followed.

"This is a very exciting day for Greensburg and its residents. I compliment the vision of the City's leaders to embrace this innovative opportunity to support new affordable green housing in the community, along with the dedicated volunteers' countless hours required to complete these beautiful homes. New affordable housing is a key component for Greensburg's long-term recovery, to help support a greener, more sustainable future for Greensburg and Kiowa County," commented State Director Banks.

Greensburg Mayor, Bob Dixon, stated, "I appreciate USDA Rural Development and its many partners working together to bring needed affordable housing to Greensburg. It is nice to see the completion of the first new home built under the *Self-Help Program*."

Mel Thompson, representing U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, also congratulated the families for participating in the *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program*. Mr. Thompson further remarked, "This long-term disaster recovery effort is now being referred to the 'Greensburg Model', and I applaud USDA Rural Development for providing the leadership to facilitate its execution."

Funding for the *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* is a result of the first-ever partnership between the United Way of the Plains in Wichita and USDA Rural Development. This cooperative funding arrangement allows the City of Greensburg to work with Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services to oversee the construction of the affordable single-family homes. A total of fifty (50) affordable 'green' homes are planned to be constructed under this program.

The *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* includes the involvement of 24 non-profits and faith-based organizations, national energy experts, government agencies, and trade associations to help reduce the cost of the houses being built to replace those homes lost from the devastating May 4, 2007 tornado that struck Greensburg and the region.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. Individuals interesting in learning more about the *Greensburg Community Self-Help Housing Program* should contact Kiowa County Long Term Recovery Housing Coordinator Laura Stoltenberg at 620-723-1097 or Mennonite Housing's Byron Adrian at 316-942-4848 or USDA Rural Development at 620-275-0211.

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