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## Rural Development

# NEWS RELEASE

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## “EARTH DAY CELEBRATION” USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$600,000 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY OF POLO

In recognition of the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first observance of Earth Day, Rural Development announces the funding of a significant water improvement project to improve the delivery of a clean, safe, sufficient source of water to the residents of the City of Polo. Gregory C. Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, presented the City of Polo with a mock check for \$600,000, representing a loan to improve the city’s water distribution system. Many people including the city employees, the city council, the engineers and the consultants worked together with Rural Development to provide dependable, safe water to many individuals, families and businesses in Polo.



Participants, from back left, include: Denise Stottlemire, consultant; Barbara Ross, USDA Rural Development; William Cook, Mayor, Council Members Melissa Poje and Julie Phillips; Dean Brookshier, Representative of Congressman Sam Graves; and Neal Miller, Area Director of USDA Rural Development. The front row is the third grade class of Polo Elementary School, who participated in Earth Day education and a poster contest.

This project funds will finance construction of a 75,000 gallon water storage facility to equalize pressure and provide dependable, safe drinking water to the 599 residents of the city of Polo.

Senator Bond’s expressed support of this project: "It is great to be a partner in a project that will allow for a dependable, safe drinking water supply for the residents of Polo. The local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."

“I am proud to have supported this project to improve water services for the residents of the City of Polo”, said Congressman Sam Graves. “I am thankful for the excellent working relationship I have with the USDA Rural Development team, and look forward to our continued work in the future.”

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe waste disposal system,” said Branum. “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable waste disposal system. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of rural projects.

Area Director Neal Miller also commended the city for their dedication to improving the quality of life for Polo residents. “The residents of Polo are fortunate to have leadership who aggressively seek to improve the public facilities within their town.”

Anyone seeking additional information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the Rural Development home page at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Barbara Ross or Stan Wolfe, Rural Development Area Specialists, at 3915 Oakland Avenue, Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506 at 816 364 3767 extension 5. Inquiries or information requests may also be e-mailed to [barbara.ross@mo.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.ross@mo.usda.gov) or [stan.wolfe@mo.usda.gov](mailto:stan.wolfe@mo.usda.gov).

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