



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Ross, Area Specialist, St Joseph, Missouri 816-364-3767, extension 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS WITH STILLWATER NATIONAL BANK TO FUND NEW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF FAIRFAX

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented certificates of appreciation to Community Hospital of Fairfax and Stillwater National Bank for their partnership in providing health care to the area through the construction of a new critical access hospital at Fairfax, Missouri. The Community Hospital and the Community Health Care Foundation are investing \$5.1 million dollars into the construction project, with an additional \$15,000,000 obligated for a Rural Development Guaranteed Loan being made by Stillwater National Bank (SNB), Healthcare Lending Group. This facility will replace the original Fairfax Community Hospital, which opened in 1949.

The new critical access hospital is the primary healthcare provider for Atchison and Holt Counties and also serves portions of Nodaway County. The hospital will provide comprehensive patient care including acute care, 24-hour emergency services, diagnostic laboratory and radiology services, physical, occupational and speech therapies, obstetrical care, skilled care and home health services. The facility also will continue to operate specialty clinics, cardiac rehab and a public education outreach. The new facility will contain approximately 52,000 square feet and be licensed for 18 acute care beds. With approximately 115 employees, the hospital is a major Atchison County employer.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said, "In times of emergency, citizens shouldn't have to worry that the distance they have to travel to get medical care they need puts help out of reach. I am pleased to announce these federal funds will allow the Community Hospital of Fairfax to construct a new critical access hospital to help local residents in their time of need."



Pictured from left to right: Bill Slaughter, Community Hospital of Fairfax board president; David Scarbrough, DDS, Community Healthcare Foundation board member; Pat Fisher, board member; Arnie Kreek, economic development planner, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments; Jacque Gayle Gebhards, board member; Alex Goodpasture, Stillwater National Bank; Janie Dunning, USDA Rural Development State Director; Bob Jackson, board member; Chad Higdon, field representative for Congressman Sam Graves; Brook Balentine, field representative for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Barbara Ross, area specialist for USDA Rural Development; Mike Thompson, Missouri House of Representatives; Mike Brownfield, resource development advisor for Midwest Assistance Program; and Richard Oswald, board member.

U.S. Congressman Sam Graves stated, “The Community Hospital-Fairfax is an integral part of care in Northwest Missouri. This funding will ensure quality medical care for another generation. I am glad the USDA Rural Development program recognizes the importance of continuing quality medical care in rural Missouri.”

The SNB Healthcare Lending Group is providing the financing for this project. This group has expertise in rural healthcare lending and understands the USDA loan guarantee program. To date in 2009, the SNB Healthcare Lending Group has provided almost \$45 million in financing with USDA loan guarantees for three Critical Access Hospitals and two medical office buildings in the Midwest and Southwest parts of the country.

“The original plan was to finance the project with tax-exempt bonds,” said Hal Fudge, president of the SNB Healthcare Lending Group. “But when the economy caused the market to lose its liquidity last year, bonds couldn’t sell at an attractive rate, so SNB got involved. This project was attractive to us for a number of reasons. The hospital had cash equity, is well-managed and enjoys great community support. With the USDA financing component and loan guarantee, this project serves as a case study for how a hospital, a bank and the USDA can partner to get something done that is in everyone’s best interest.”

“Community Hospital-Fairfax is proud to continue to provide a healthy future for our community. We are pleased to partner with USDA Rural Development to do so. We both understand that accessible healthcare is key to the long term health of our community,” stated Bill Slaughter, President of the Board of Directors, Community Hospital-Fairfax

Dunning said, “Today we recognize a great example of how partnerships can work together to accomplish significant improvements for a great community. I extend my congratulations to The Community Hospital-Fairfax and SNB Healthcare Lending Group. This is a celebration of many individuals, groups and partnerships working together to ensure the availability of necessary funding for essential health care services. This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Sam Graves for making available federal monies for funding this community hospital rural northwest Missouri.”

Community Facilities assistance can be by direct loans, grants, or guaranteed loans through a conventional lender to improve community facilities providing essential services in rural areas and towns with a population of 20,000 or less. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, and non-profit corporations which meet specific criteria. Other examples of what the funds can be used for include: to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities such as health care (clinics, ambulatory care centers, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and nursing homes); public safety (communication centers, police and fire stations, fire trucks, rescue vehicles, fire and rescue equipment and jails); and public services (child care centers, assisted living projects, sheltered workshops, community centers and buildings, airports, and libraries). This can include costs to acquire land for a facility, pay professional fees, or purchase operating equipment.

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Barbara Ross, Area Specialist, at the St. Joseph Area Office at 4915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling 81361-3767 (extension 4).

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.,
Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

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