

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HONORS NATIONAL HOUSING SITE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

**Outline Of Need:** *Ms. Debbie Jensen received national office recognition by Agriculture Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr, at a breakfast ceremony at the Alexandria, Virginia, for being selected as one of three National Multi-Family Housing Site Managers of the Year for 2008. Today, USDA Rural Development State Director Jafar Karim is recognizing Ms. Jensen at the state level, along with Rural Development staff, tenants, community members, family and friends in conjunction with Lincoln I Apartments 15-year anniversary party. Jensen is the site manager of the 56 elderly units at Lincoln Apartments I & II in Pierre, South Dakota.*

**How Rural Development Helped:** *“We are proud to recognize Debbie for her hard work,” Karim said. “Both our agency and residents recognize her talents and appreciate them very much. Rural Development helps ensure communities have affordable rental and housing options like the Lincoln apartments. Apartment managers like Debbie Jensen play a key role in maintaining the quality of life for the residents that reside in the apartments by providing safety and meeting their needs.*

**The Results:** *The three honorees were selected from nominations received from several states. Selection criteria was based on tenant satisfaction with their manager, curb appeal of the apartment complex, accurate and complete record keeping, and actions of the manager that consistently go above and beyond what is required of the job.*

*““Debbie does an excellent job of handling the day to day business side of managing the program well,” said Mary Jo Minor, President of Mills Property Management. She continued, “Her office is neat and inviting. She is on time with reports and thorough with her certifications and verifications. She is able to explain things in understandable terms to the residents and their families. One of the most unique ways that Debbie manages this property is the way she works with the residents, keeping them involved with the community by volunteering her time and working with her tenants that are willing to do volunteer work. It’s with great pride that we have such an excellent employee!”*

*“It’s an honor for me to represent Mills Property Management and the State of South Dakota,” said Debbie Jensen, Elderly Site Manager of Lincoln Apartments I and II. She continued, “It’s all about helping people. My philosophy is to treat people how you would want to be treated, and that’s how I treat my tenants. We are one big family here.”*

Submitted on 06/25/2008 - Pierre



Pictured at left is Lincoln Apartments located in Pierre, SD. Pictured at right – left to right: State Director Jafar Karim, Debbie Jensen – Site Manager and her husband Allen Jensen.

