



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Awards Main Street Gettysburg, Inc. \$70,000 Rural Business Grant

Gettysburg, PA – August 6, 2008 – Congressman Todd Platts and USDA Rural Development State Director Gary H. Groves presented a \$70,000 ceremonial check to Bill Kough, Chairman of Main Street Gettysburg. The monies represent a Rural Business Enterprise Grant to be used to complete a revitalization plan for Steinwehr Avenue businesses. Officials from the Borough of Gettysburg, business owners, state and community economic development officials were present at the event.

“This collaborative effort between Main Street Gettysburg and the Borough of Gettysburg will provide a good opportunity to attract new businesses, bolster job creation and revitalize the Steinwehr Avenue Business District and the overall local economy,” said Congressman Todd Platts.

“The Rural Development grant award will help stimulate much-needed economic development in Gettysburg,” said Gary H. Groves, Rural Development State Director. “It demonstrates the commitment Rural Development is making to the future of our rural communities,” added Groves.

The revitalization plan, funded by Rural Development, will assist approximately 53 small businesses that include a mixture of retail, restaurant and lodging establishments that will be negatively affected by the relocation of the Gettysburg National Military Visitor Center and Museum. Additional funding is provided by the PA Community Revitalization Program (\$30,000), PA Land Use Technical Assistance Program (\$70,000) and the recipient (\$22,500).

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program offers grants to public bodies, nonprofit corporations and federally recognized Indian tribal groups to finance and facilitate development of small and emerging businesses located in rural areas. The grant funds may be used for: 1) acquisition and development of land and the construction of buildings, plants and equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas and utility and service extensions; 2) revolving loan funds; and 3) fees for professional services, technical assistance, etc.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs and renewable energy; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

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