



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Awards Lansford Alive \$40,000 Rural Business Grant

Lansford, PA – August 14, 2008 – Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski (PA-11) and USDA Rural Development Area Director, Jack Kauffman presented a ceremonial check representing a \$40,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to Lansford Alive’s President Mark Svercheck. The funds will be used to implement a marketing and revitalization plan developed by Lansford Alive for Lansford Borough.

“The funding from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise grant will help to expand economic development in Lansford Borough,” said Congressman Kanjorski. “Lansford Alive has placed a great deal of effort towards attracting new businesses and helping existing businesses grow in downtown Lansford, in addition to developing other programs. I would like to thank the USDA for providing Lansford Alive with this needed grant which will also help improve the quality of life for those living in Lansford.”

“Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities, and this Rural Business Grant to Lansford Alive to benefit Lansford Borough is a fine example of this commitment,” said Jack Kauffman, Area Director.

Lansford Alive’s completed marketing and revitalization plan determined the resources available to promote economic development in the Central Business District of Lansford Borough. Lansford Alive intends to assist the Borough in finding potential uses for these local resources focusing on the Central Business District’s existing businesses while trying to provide new business opportunities. Lansford Alive will contribute \$2,200 to the project. In 2005, Lansford Alive received a RBEG from Rural Development in the amount of \$26,335 to complete the marketing and revitalization plan that will be implemented with this grant.

Lansford Alive is a non-profit organization of local business people in Lansford Borough. Its goal is to improve the quality of life in Lansford and the greater Panther Valley area through community revitalization of Lansford.

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.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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