

## **AREA FIVE AGENCY ON AGING FUNDING TO PROVIDE JOBS**

As part of the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative, USDA Rural Development presented a \$78,000 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to representatives of the Area Five Agency. The grant is designed to provide an incentive for business expansion, job creation, and private investment in rural areas of Indiana.

USDA Rural Development Indiana State Director Robert White said, "With these funds, the Area Five Agency will be able to assist numerous small businesses who, in the past, have had very few options for alternatives to traditional bank financing."

Amy Beechy, Small Business Development Manager at Area Five noted, "The funding through USDA Rural Development has allowed several Cass and Fulton county businesses to borrow money at a reduced interest rate and to also take advantage of paid training opportunities. Statistically, small businesses create most of the new jobs in the United States and we are fortunate to have this funding available locally to stimulate the small businesses in our community and help them grow. Thanks to USDA Rural Development as this latest award will serve to build on and maintain the positive impact of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant."

Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services, Inc. is an independent not-for-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors, dedicated to meeting the needs of the elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged members of the communities.

*-July 2008*