

Vittoria Square Remodeling Complete

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The Housing Authority recently completed rehabilitation work at Vittoria Square Apartments at 3300 Vittoria Way in Newberg. The entire project was re-sided and new energy-efficient windows were installed. Units were upgraded to meet current requirements for handicapped accessibility. The work was funded with loans from USDA Rural Development and the Vittoria Square success was featured in a press release issued by USDA and reproduced below.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF FINANCING HOUSING PROGRAMS IN RURAL OREGON

PORTLAND, October 28, 2009— U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service Administrator Tammye Treviño today commemorated the 60th anniversary of Rural Development's housing programs and highlighted the agency's accomplishments in providing greater economic opportunities for rural residents.

"As we look back over the last 60 years, it is clear that providing housing programs and services to rural communities has played a vital role in shaping rural Oregon and America as a whole." Treviño said in Newberg, during a celebration of an elderly housing project, Vittoria Square Apartments. "The Obama Administration and I are proud to celebrate this great milestone in America's history. Helping to ensure that rural residents have opportunities for affordable and decent rental housing is an important part of our mission."

USDA Rural Development's Rural Rental Housing program provides loans to build, purchase, or repair apartment-style housing in order to provide rental units for persons with low and moderate incomes, including those age 62 and older and handicapped persons living in rural communities of Oregon.

This week also marks the 60th anniversary of a turning point in federal homeownership policies. Congress passed the Housing Act of 1949 to provide federal aid for home purchases and home repairs on farms. USDA's Farmers Home Administration, now called USDA Rural Development later expanded its home loan and grant services to include all rural areas.

Since 1949, USDA Rural Development housing programs have provided 3 million rural Americans with \$124.6 billion in loans, grants and loan guarantees to purchase, refinance or repair single- and multi-family dwellings. Last year alone, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$406 million in Oregon rural housing projects.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov

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