



NEWS RELEASE

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

(Yankton, South Dakota – July 6, 2006) – Ms. Ellen Slowey received national office recognition by Agriculture Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr, at a breakfast ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City in Alexandria, Virginia, for being selected as one of three National Multi-Family Housing Site Managers of the Year for 2005. Today, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Tim Potts is recognizing Ms. Slowey at the state level, along with Rural Development staff, tenants, community members, family and friends.

Potts said, “Apartment managers play a vital role in maintaining the quality of life for the residents that reside in the apartments by providing safety and meeting their needs. We are proud to recognize this well-deserving individual. Both our agency and residents recognize her talents and appreciate them very much.” Slowey is the elderly site manger of 65 units at Sunrise Apartments in Yankton, South Dakota.

The three winners were selected from 37 nominations representing 20 states. Selection criteria was based on tenant satisfaction with their manager, curb appeal of the manager’s apartment complex, accurate and complete record keeping, and actions of the manger that consistently go above and beyond what is required of the job.

Betty Beukelman of Mills Property Management said, “We are so proud to have our employee receive the National Manager of the Year Award. Ellen goes over and above in her job in so many ways caring for the property and love for her residents. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude is evident in the tenant’s happiness at Sunrise. This is truly a program and people success story. Congratulations Ellen!!”

“My elderly residents at Sunrise are like a part of my family and this is also our home. I love my job and enjoy all the different areas a manager deals with every single day,” said Ellen Slowey, Elderly Site Manager of Sunrise Apartments.

USDA Rural Development has ten offices in the state that assist rural communities. Office locations include a state office in Huron, along with area offices in Aberdeen, Huron, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sturgis, Watertown, and Yankton.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www/rurdev.usda.gov>.

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