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For more information please contact:
Barb Jacobs, (651) 649-1710 ext. 117
Minnesota Housing Partnership

Southwestern Minnesota Receives \$20,000 to Address Housing Shortage

Luverne and Pipestone Support Economic Development through Strategic Housing Initiatives

St. Paul, Minn. (December 21, 2007) – This month, Minnesota Housing Partnership awarded two Southwestern Minnesota communities \$10,000 each to address the area's workforce housing shortage. The Luverne EDA will use its grant to conduct a housing needs assessment. The Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership along with the City of Pipestone will use their \$10,000 award to apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credits for a multi-family development in Pipestone.

Between six of Southwest Minnesota's major employers—Total Card, Inc., Gold 'N Plump, Suzlon, Bayliner, Swift & Company, and the Prairie Holdings Group—hundreds of jobs have been created in the region over the past few years.

The impact of the region's growing economic prosperity is that businesses cannot find homes for their employees, resulting in expansion limitations. The **Worthington Daily Globe** recently reported that Pipestone-located "Suzlon has struggled to recruit employees since it opened because of the lack of rental housing in the community. Today, the wind turbine manufacturing company is busing in 200 of its 450 employees."

In a subsequent article, Worthington's JBS Swift & Co. told the **Globe** that the area's dearth of housing has kept it from reaching full staffing potential. "We're losing employees because they can't find a place to live in Worthington," said Bob Krebs, Swift's plant manager, to the paper. Swift, like Suzlon, buses employees in from as far away as Sioux Falls, SD, because of the housing crunch.

The area's growth trajectory is poised to continue well into the future as many employers are planning expansions in 2008. Suzlon alone aims to double its workforce, from 350 to 700, by July of 2008.

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants, and technical expertise to plan and construct housing, in addition to advocating and educating

people on sound housing policies. MHP's work in Greater Minnesota is primarily supported by The McKnight Foundation.

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