



Rural Development • Community Program • Community Facilities Program

Working together to support, strengthen, and invest in rural schools

In 2009, D’Arbonne Woods Charter School moved into a 44,500 square-foot vacated retail store built in 1978. Since that time, student enrollment increased. The present classrooms and offices are small and do not have walls that reach the ceiling. Because of these conditions, sound travels from one room to the next. Classes for grades 9 – 12 are held in a building a block away and temporary buildings are also used on the grounds. The HVAC and electrical systems are old and outdated. There are also accessibility and safety concerns.



USDA RD project announcement for \$18 million to D’Arbonne Woods Charter School for new facility. Pictured from left to right: RD State Director Clarence W. Hawkins, Janice Jenkins, Pam Schooler, and Board President Tommy Futch from DWCS , Rep. Robert Shadoin, Senator Mike Walworth, and Michael Jackson.

D’Arbonne Woods Charter School received a \$18 million Community Facility Loan from Rural Development to construct a new 116,000 square-foot modern facility. Rural Development field staff worked with the town, school, architect, and others to complete the application to start this project.

To support building the new facility, the school contributed \$748,160 of their own money and received additional funds in the amount of \$5.1 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provides for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB). The QSCB program provides tax credits, in lieu of interest and allows low-cost borrowing to finance the construction, rehabilitation or repair of a public school facility or for the acquisition of land where a school will be built. Community Trust Bank will provide interim financing for this project.

“Projects to build new schools will benefit rural communities for years to come with vital innovative learning opportunities. The new facility will be modern with new classrooms, administration area, library, and science labs. The new environment will address safety concerns, be conducive to present-day technology, growth for the communities, and accommodate room to increase enrollment,” said Clarence W. Hawkins USDA Rural Development State Director.

Obligation Amount: \$18 million Community Facility Loan

Date of Obligation: August 14, 2013

Congressional District: Representative John Fleming

Partners: State of LA, Town of Farmerville, and Community Trust Bank

Demographics: Town of Farmerville 3,851

Impact: Creation of 70 permanent jobs in a special emphasis targeted area.