

**NORTHEASTERN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**P.O. Box 367 ~ 154 Highway 158 East**  
**Camden, North Carolina 27921**  
**Phone: 252-338-5466 Fax: 252-338-5639**  
**E-Mail: [northeastcommunitydev@mchsi.com](mailto:northeastcommunitydev@mchsi.com)**

**NORTHEASTERN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER CELEBRATES WITH  
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

*Camden, NC* – Congressman Walter B. Jones and USDA Rural Development State Director John Cooper joined the Northeastern Community Development Corporation (CDC) Board of Directors at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Northeastern Child Development Center last month.

The \$730,000 for the project was possible because of a partnership between private, State and Federal agencies. USDA Rural Development responded to the need by providing a \$600,000 loan. The Duke Endowment contributed \$90,000, Smart Start \$1,500 along with \$38,523 from private donations.

The funds were used for the construction of the 7200 square foot facility. The building includes preschool, two year olds, toddlers and infant classrooms, conference room, kitchen, play area and office space. The facility offers childcare services for infants which had not been possible due to inadequate space.

“I want to congratulate everyone here on the opening of this beautiful addition to the child development center,” Congressman Jones said. “This is a great example of government and the private sector working together to create something good for the community.”

North Carolina is the leading state for Community Programs. These programs provide loans, grants and loan guarantees for first responders, medical clinics, daycare centers, senior centers and municipal buildings as well as water and sewer projects.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs 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.usda.gov>

For more information about Northeastern Child Development Center, please call 338-3435.

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***PHOTO TO COME SEPARATELY***