

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GMG School District Receives \$300,000 From Consumers Energy for Their Secondary School in Garwin *USDA Rural Business Development Grant Funds*

Marshalltown, Iowa. Consumers Energy presented members of the Green Mountain-Garwin School District with a check for \$300,000 on November 23, 2009, a no-interest loan from the USDA Rural Development which will be applied to the construction costs of the district's gym and classroom addition for their seventh through 12th grade facility in Garwin as part of the federal government's Rural Economic Development Grant Program. The school's new addition also features locker rooms and a strength training center. These funds were awarded to Consumers Energy, who then distributed them to the GMG School District for their secondary school's project.

The grants and loans are awarded through USDA Rural Development to electric and telecommunications cooperative organizations, which in turn provide loans or grants to support local economic or community development efforts. Funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including community facilities and infrastructure, improving access to local medical care and other projects that encourage a favorable climate for jobs and growth. Funding of selected applicants is contingent upon meeting the conditions of the loan and/or grant agreement. The loans and grants support business economic and community development and assist in the creation or saving of rural jobs and to spur economic development in rural areas.

"This is a significant project for both the GMG School District and for Consumers Energy. Being a locally owned cooperative with strong ties to our communities, we are glad to work in a spirit of cooperation with the school district to help improve our quality of life and enhance the economic viability of the rural area," said Brian Heithoff, CEO and General Manager of Consumers Energy.

Consumers Energy is a local, member-owned energy solutions cooperative specializing in energy delivery and energy management. The cooperative serves over 5,000 members and customers in six counties throughout Central Iowa: Marshall, Jasper, Polk, Tama, Story, and Hardin.



Pictured Left to Right:

Ladies in Front Row: GMG Students: Jami Boege, Tayler Bovenmyer, Chelsey Parks, Jaleen Freiberg

Men in Back Row: GMG Principal Mark Polich; GMG Students: Blaze Warr, Wyatt Kaiser, Jacob Hlas, Michael Svendsen, Joe Barloon, Austin Aldrich; GMG Superintendent Mike Ashton; Consumers Energy CEO/General Manager Brian Heithoff