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News

AgStar Fund awards grant to Cass County Economic Development Corporation

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MANKATO — The AgStar Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of AgStar Financial Services, recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from their Rural Feasibility Study Grant Program to the Cass County Economic Development Corporation.

The grant will be used to fund a study on a proposed critical access hospital and health care campus in Walker.

"AgStar knows how important it is to have medical care in rural areas," said Jody Bloemke, fund administrator. "Communities like Walker need to be able to provide the best medical services to their residents and the surrounding area. That is why we created this program, to help organizations study economic development opportunities for their rural communities."

Gail Levenson, Executive Director of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation, said, "As a local economic development organization, it is exciting to have committed partners like AgStar who support the projects we work on."

AgStar is proud to support the rural and agricultural communities where they operate. The company is also committed to giving back to rural residents, organizations and communities through AgStar's Fund for Rural America. In 2008, over \$640,000 was donated by the AgStar Fund.

AgStar Financial Services, ACA, headquartered in Mankato, operates in 69 counties in Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin serving rural communities and agribusinesses throughout the U.S. as part of the Farm Credit System.



Gail Levenson, executive director of the Cass County Economic Development Commission (right), accepts a \$5,000 check from (left to right) Dan McGinty of Essentia Community Hospitals and Clinics (EHC); Jody Bloemke, Larry Anderson and Jerry Briese, representing the AgStar Fund for Rural America; and Michael Hedrix of EHC. Photo submitted