

USDA Helps Address The Medical Needs of Rural Nebraska

Outline of Need:

The Brown County Hospital Dialysis Center in Ainsworth, Nebraska began operation in 2002 and is available to approximately 3,700 rural residents in Ainsworth and surrounding communities. Prior to the opening of the Center, patients had to drive over 100 miles several days a week to obtain their medical treatments. The Center began to face constant equipment repairs that are common as equipment reaches the end of its useful life. These repairs were becoming a financial burden and the need for new equipment was apparent.

How Rural Development Helped:

Persistent to continue this valuable service to its patients, the Brown County Hospital Dialysis Committee raised over \$50,000 for new dialysis equipment. (This same committee raised \$124,100 to create the Brown County Hospital Dialysis Center, with the equipment being donated.) USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant funds of \$19,000 joined the Committee's \$50,000 along with grants, memorials and monies from the first annual golf tournament fundraising event. These monies purchased three new Fresenius Dialysis machines and a new water treatment unit. The unit will enable the three Fresenius machines to run concurrently and to have treated water storage available for emergencies.

The Results:

Patients are continuing to enjoy the comfort and convenience of not having to travel long distances for their medical care, bringing an improved quality of life to many. The Brown County Hospital was very grateful for the USDA Rural Development Grant as it helped to offset the expense of the equipment that alone they may not have been able to afford. Ainsworth is very aware that medical services provided in the area are vital to its economic sustainability and growth through employment and services offered. This awareness is witnessed by the proactive approach taken in raising money to keep those services alive and growing. Always looking to the future, Brown County Hospital has goals of a Dialysis Center addition and renovation for improved health care services.



USDA Rural Development Symbolic Funding Check presented to Brown County Hospital for new dialysis equipment.