

## STAND UP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We don't know about you, but too many times, we fail to give proper thanks to the people who work hard day-in day-out on our behalf. Let's not make that mistake this time. Please join us in saluting Bill French, visionary CEO of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC). He is retiring after 29 years leading one of the most important rural community development support organizations assisting countless communities and their residents across 13 western states. For more information on RCAC and its impact, go to <http://www.rcac.org/>.

Bill is being honored at a Sacramento reception and dinner on November 1st. There is no way everyone who has benefited from his dedication can be there. So we're asking you to sign on to a thank you letter we will send him. You can help by getting your colleagues and friends to sign too. Don't wait until it's too late. The deadline is October 15. Please go to [www.ruralamerica.org](http://www.ruralamerica.org) now. We also encourage you to send him individual notes.

## POLICY UPDATE

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, chairman of the Agriculture Committee has issued a "Discussion Draft" of the farm Bill. To see it, go to <http://www.farmpolicy.com/?p=434>. A summary is available at <http://www.farms.com/readstory.asp?dtnnewsid=1695687>. The Committee is expected to mark up the bill very shortly.

The New York Times is reporting the ethanol boom may be stalling in part because a weak distribution system has supplies backed up. "The end of the ethanol boom is possibly in sight and may already be here," said Neil E. Harl, an economics professor emeritus at Iowa State University. "This is a dangerous time for people who are making investments." To read the story, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/30/business/30ethanol.html?em&ex=1191384000&en=bd695fcc2bcabe84&ei=5087>.

## FUNDING AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Lexus Environmental Challenge is a program designed to educate and empower students to take action to improve the environment.** More than \$1 million in total scholarships and grants will be awarded to students, teachers, and schools. For each of the challenges, teams will define an environmental issue, develop and implant a plan and report on the results. Submission Deadlines are: Challenge #1 (Land) -- October 5, 2007; Challenge #2 (Water) -- November 5, 2007; Challenge #3 (Air) -- December 5, 2007; and Challenge #4 (Climate) -- January 7, 2008. For more information, go to <http://www.scholastic.com/>.

**The Environmental Protection Agency has \$72 million available for 200 grants for the remediation of Brownfields and \$2.5 million for environmental job training grants.** HUD also has grants under its Brownfields

Economic Development Initiative. **Respective deadlines are Oct. 12, Oct. 19 and Dec. 24.** For more information, go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

**The AT&T Foundation has announced a \$1.5 million competitive grant program to help nonprofits integrate wireless communications technology into educational outreach projects.** The program will help nonprofits deliver educational content and enhance learning opportunities in the communities they serve. It will award one-time, education-focused, wireless technology grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 each for wireless applications and hardware. **The deadline is October 19.** For more information, visit <http://www.att.com/foundation/>

**The Target Field Trip Grant program will award grants to schools across the United States for field trips in the spring of 2008.** Up to 1,600 grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded. **The deadline is November 1.** For more information, visit <http://www.target.com/>

**The America's Promise Alliance and Capital One have announced the 2008 "100 Best Communities for Young People Competition"** with a call for entries from U.S. communities considering themselves the best places for young people to live and grow up. Winners will range from large urban cities to small rural towns. All applicants will be eligible to apply for a total of \$300,000 in grants from the alliance. **The deadline is November 2.** For more information, visit <http://www.americaspromise.org/>

**The NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program, a partnership of the National Football League Youth Football Fund and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation** provides nonprofit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields. Applicants may request a maximum of \$200,000 for capital improvements. All applicants must be located specifically and exclusively within NFL Target Markets and serve low- to moderate-income areas within those markets. **The deadline is November 30.** Visit [www.lisc.org](http://www.lisc.org) for more information, including a list of NFL Target Markets.

## TRAINING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**The Consortium for Housing and Asset Management (CHAM) Conference will be held November 4-6 in Miami Beach.** Professional asset and property managers, dedicated to expanding the capacity of community-based organizations will gather for collective problem solving and professional development. CHAM is a consortium of three leaders in the affordable housing and community development industry dedicated to asset management excellence: Enterprise, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and Neighborworks America. Go to <http://www.cham.org/> for more information.



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The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will hold a conference in Indianapolis on November 5 and 6 and in Los Angeles, November 27 and 28. Register by October 29. Topics to be covered include: the federal grants process and funding opportunities, and the basic legal responsibilities that come with federal funding. Go to <http://www.dtiassociates.com/FBCI/index.cfm> for more information.

## INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

**For the first time, the urban population of the world now exceeds the rural population.** Scientists from North Carolina State University and the University of Georgia cautioned this does not mean the urban population has greater significance. Urban and rural populations depend on each other, cities need rural resources such as clean air, water, food, fiber, forest products and minerals. The U.S. population became a majority urban population in early 1910. Today, 21 percent is rural although some states, i.e. Maine, Mississippi, Vermont and West Virginia are still majority rural. <http://www.physorg.com/news99066556.html>.

"Navigating the New Audit Standards" is an article in the Nonprofit Quarterly by Kate Barr, executive director of the Nonprofits Assistance Fund in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It explains the new standard, officially known as "Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit, or SAS 112." To read the report, go to <http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/section/922.html>.

The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation has published a new report, "Connecting People to Jobs: Expanding Economic Opportunities for the South's Disadvantaged Workers." Its aim is to "spark conversations about developing and supporting workforce partnerships in small cities and rural areas." To download the report, go to <http://files.e2ma.net/8316/assets/docs/mrbfreportrev.pdf>.

Send information on funding opportunities, events, publications, resources or rural related policy issues to: [reporter@ruralamerica.org](mailto:reporter@ruralamerica.org). Announcements will be published at our discretion based on space and applicability. To receive the Network Reporter by email contact us at: [info@ruralamerica.org](mailto:info@ruralamerica.org).



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