



### **City of Franklin Builds New Daycare and Community Center**

FRANKLIN, Minn., December 5, 2016 – The Cougar Cub Child Care and Franklin Community Center are opening their doors in Franklin, Minnesota this week with the help of a Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) loan through Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association. Renville-Sibley Cooperative was one of three lenders to the daycare and community center with a total project cost of \$960,000.

The project is the result of a community effort to address childcare shortages and to create a space where people can gather. Community leaders worked in conjunction with the local school district and formed Franklin Industries, an entity that acquired the project's funding.

"About one year ago, two of the three daycares in town were closing," said Scott Nissen, treasurer of Franklin Industries. "If families leave the community to fill that need, we will lose them."

The Cougar Cub Child Care Center and Franklin Community Center are housed in a new 7900 square foot multi-purpose facility on Franklin's main street. Jody Rose has been hired as the director of Cougar Cub Child Care Center, which has space to provide care for 45 children.

Renville-Sibley Cooperative CEO DeeAnne Newville said, "We are happy to help fill a gap in a rural community. Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles. It's an example of the city, school and economic development coming together for the good of the people in our rural communities."

The daycare hosted an open house on Saturday, December 3 in advance of their opening date. Franklin Industries owns the multi-purpose building, Cedar Mountain Schools oversees the daycare and the city of Franklin oversees the Community Center. The daycare and community center are two distinct entities but share a common wall.

#### **About Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association and the Rural Electric Economic Develop Fund:**

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, a not-for-profit electric cooperative, serves the rural areas of Renville County and portions of five other counties. The REED Fund, a joint economic development fund managed by Renville-Sibley and 21 other electric cooperatives in South Dakota and Minnesota, is used to fund projects to promote economic development and enhance the lives of people in rural communities.

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*If you are planning a new business or looking to expand, or if your community needs financing for facilities or services, please contact Renville-Sibley Co-op Power for an application or contact the REED Fund at (605)256-8015 for more information. This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*