



June 27, 2008

Contact:  
Judy Edwardh Black  
336-474-0766  
jblack@map-inc.org

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## **Reorganization capitalizes on management's strengths**

NEW PRAGUE, Minn., June 27, 2008 – Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. CEO Martha Cashman has announced a reorganization of the nonprofit's central staff. Chris Fierros has been named chief operating officer; Amanda Jahr is the new chief financial officer; and Lee Michalsky has been hired as the new director of training.

"I believe this new assignment of responsibilities really capitalizes on the strengths these individuals bring to MAP. They'll provide the leadership to help MAP reach its full potential in serving our clients," Cashman says. "This great central office team and outstanding field staff create a powerful combination for rural communities and tribal nations."

Fierros, based in Savannah, Mo., formerly served as MAP's director of programs and as regional director for Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Minnesota. Dennis Siders now is regional director for those states. Fierros has been with MAP since 1997.

Jahr joined MAP in 2007 as its assistant accountant in the New Prague office. She now has responsibility for accounting, benefits and human resources information for the organization. Prior to MAP, Jahr was an associate accountant at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Michalsky will be developing and implementing a wide variety of training opportunities for operators, boards and others. He has taught water treatment, environmental studies and environmental technology at several colleges and universities. He also worked with tribal nations as a resource development advisor for MAP in the '90s. Michalsky works out of Billings, Mont.

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping rural communities in a nine-state area improve their environment, quality of life and achieve self sustainability. MAP helps revitalize small communities by working with them to find solutions for their infrastructure, enterprise development, aging, technology or training issues. It's a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, a national, rural community development network. MAP is an equal-opportunity lender, provider and employer.