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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two new staffers boost MAP programs in Missouri

NEW PRAGUE, Minn., January 8, 2009 – Two new resource development advisors for Midwest Assistance Program, Inc., will boost the organization's programs and services for its client communities in Missouri.

Stephanie Ross has a strong background in emergency response and finance, thanks to her position with the Platte County Department of Public Works. Her responsibilities included training and coordination with FEMA/SEMA, local agencies and officials to address natural disasters, health risks and catastrophic events that would affect public safety. She also provided administrative support for the county's efforts to maintain, sustain and improve its infrastructure. Ross has worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Ray County Soil and Water Conservation District as a conservation technician.

Karen Yates brings a diverse, entrepreneurial background to MAP's clients. She most recently served as mayor of Fredericktown. During her term, she was integrally involved with restructuring the city's water, wastewater and electric utilities, which included addressing a violation of the EPA's permitted levels of outflow from the wastewater treatment plant and negotiating the sale of the electric utility. Yates also started Madison County Coffee Company, raises and markets organic produce, and publishes the Madison County Crier.

"Karen and Stephanie are wonderful additions to our staff," says Martha Cashman, CEO of MAP. "They bring experience and perspectives from different fields, which will strengthen the services and support we offer our clients in Missouri."

"Stephanie and Karen can relate to our clients because they're experienced in operating utilities at municipal and county levels. Both are strong in financial management and familiar with the regulatory and funding agencies MAP works with on a daily basis," says Dennis Siders, MAP regional director.

Ross is based in Platte City and can be reached via e-mail at sross@map-inc.org.

Yates is working from Fredericktown; her e-mail address is: kyates@map-inc.org.

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, and 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.