City: Laurens  Population: 1258
Contact name: Barb Smith  Phone: 712-841-4526
Contact Title: City Manager  Email: bsmith@laurens-ia.com
Title of Project: Saving the Care Center

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed.
It all began in 2011 when the Good Samaritan Society announced that it would be closing the doors to the nursing home in June, 2012 since they could not find a buyer for the facility. The largest hurdle in the sale of the home was low water flow to the home. The flow was too low to install an updated sprinkler system to pass the State Fire Marshall’s inspection.

Hearing this, the City of Laurens, Laurens Municipal Power and Communications Board, the Laurens Industrial Foundation, and the Senior Pioneers all banded together to save the Laurens Care Center. While the City was putting their heads together to figure out how they could increase the water flow to the home, the Senior Pioneers and the Laurens Industrial Foundation were banding together to apply for a USDA grant to purchase and remodel the facility. Laurens Municipal Power and Communications Board also sprang into action by applying for a USDA revolving loan.

The Care Center was purchased from the Good Samaritan Society effective June, 2012. In June 2013, the City of Laurens had replaced water mains to the Care Center with larger mains to increase the water flow for the fire suppression. The City at the same time replaced aged sewer and storm sewer lines as well as completely reconstructed the street, parking, and sidewalk in front of the care center.

All groups involved with the project are happy to report the Care Center has been remodeled and is near capacity!

Project Funding and Execution:
Total Cost/Projected Cost of Project: $3,023,000  or  no cost

List where funding came from (grants, donations, city funds, etc.)
$300,000-USDA Grant, $60,000-USDA Revolving Loan, $517,000-Drinking Water SRF Loan, $500,000-CDBG Grant, $438,000-Clean Water SRF Loan, $1,080,000 GO Bond, $128,000-City

Total time project took/projected to take for completion:
(to qualify project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013)
02/2011  11/2013  Start date  End date  or  Project is ongoing

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Explain the specific role of your city in this project.
The Laurens Power and Communication Board obtained a revolving loan from the USDA to help with the purchase and remodel of the Care Center.

The City of Laurens incurred the costs of replacing the water, sewer, and storm sewer piping over 2 miles to the Care Center; as well as replacing the old worn asphalt with new concrete street, parking area, and sidewalk.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?
Saving the Care Center will allow the citizens of Laurens to continue to have access to a local doctor, pharmacy, dentist, etc. If the Care Center would have closed, we feared that these businesses would close also as many of their patients are from the Care Center. This would have created a tremendous burden on the residents as the closest health care facility, pharmacy, dentist, etc, is approximately 15 miles out of town. If we would have allowed the Care Center to close, many businesses other than the ones listed above would begin to close as they would lose revenues from relatives shopping while visiting the Care Center.

The population in Laurens has been dropping and the loss of the Care Center would have reduced the population even further as families want to live close to where their elderly relatives are living out the remainder of their lives.

This project is another step for the City to replace the aging infrastructure, which was planned for sometime in the future, but the timeline was accelerated in order to save the Care Center. This entire process has been a great project for everyone involved. It shows how a community can come together to save something very near and dear to their hearts.

Resources
Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information. Do NOT include supplemental paper information. Only information on this form or the sites listed will be used in the judging process.

www.laurens-ia.com/what's_happening.html

Signatures: (Must be signed to be eligible.
Most members print to sign)

[Signature]
Mayor

[Signature]
City Clerk

Return this form by Monday, April 7, 2014.

Iowa League of Cities
Attn: All-Star Community Awards
500 SW 7th Street, Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50309
or
bethanycrile@iowaleague.org

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