

# A Story of Compassion

USDA Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

## Alpena Regional Medical Center

Alpena, Michigan

In 2006 Alpena Regional Medical Center (ARMC) received a Distance Learning and Telemedicine program grant from USDA Rural Development for \$421,872. This grant will allow the ARMC will to serve over 40,000 patients in six counties covering a 3,000 square mile area. The grant will provide upgraded digital radiology services and establish a wireless network linking the hospital with clinics. According to Steve Mousseau, Alpena General Hospital, this technology is long overdue because of the area's growing elderly population, demanding winter climate, and transportation challenges.

### How the Initiative is Helping

Rural Development staff in Michigan have been working to expand the reach of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program in rural Michigan through partnership with faith based and community organizations. Through many USDA Faith-Based and Community Initiative outreach campaigns in Michigan, more and more communities are finding about the benefits available to them through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program.

### About the Organization

The Alpena Regional Medical Center (ARMC) is northeast Michigan's leading provider of specialty services. The center is a 146-bed acute care facility with a health care team that includes nearly 100 physicians, over 900 employees and approximately 300 volunteers. They offer the Region's only full-service Cancer Center, fixed MRI, cardiac cath lab, Behavioral Health program, and comprehensive Rehabilitation Services. The ARMC services expand beyond the main building in Alpena to include several satellite services, which address the health care needs of area residents through remote clinics, care and equipment delivered to the home and special services for regional physician offices. Federally-designated as a rural Regional Referral Center for all of Northeastern Michigan, ARMC provides quality health services and technology to meet the changing health care needs of the people of Northeastern Michigan.

