

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Grant Housing Agency Achieves Smoke Free Designation

Grant – Grant Housing Agency has achieved Smoke Free designation on a majority of their buildings. Housing Director Debbie Barkley has worked diligently to provide this opportunity for tenants with the goal of 100% apartments smoke free in the future.

“Through education from Smoke Free Nebraska, they have emphasized that secondhand smoke migrates,” states Debbie. Air quality studies in apartment buildings show that anywhere from 5% to 60% of the air in an apartment unit moves to other units in the building. Contrary to popular belief, secondhand smoke cannot be controlled by ventilation or air cleaning.

“Grant is to be congratulated for this step to protect tenants, especially children, from the effects of secondhand smoke,” complimented Denise Ringenberg, Health Educator at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. “We want to recognize Debbie and her board for their efforts and encourage other landlords to consider similar action.” Board members include: Joy Howerter, Jeff Wallin, Debra Hutsell, David Vapenik, and Carol Burnham.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department will assist area Housing Agencies and private landlords implementing smoke free policies. Additional materials are also available to assist in creating awareness of smoke free housing.

If you are interested in receiving information on Smoke Free Housing, please contact Denise Ringenberg at envhealth@swhealthdept.com, review our web site at <http://www.swhealthdept.com/health.htm> or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/swnphd. The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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