

# Valentine Ribbon Cutting on Two New Workforce Houses

On Friday, March 11, 2022, Valentine held a ribbon cutting, celebrating the addition of **two new houses** to their ever-growing market. Both houses will be for sale, in the coming months, to income qualified buyers.

The homes were built through the Rural Workforce Housing Program, a revolving loan program created in 2017, which will perpetuate the investment of funding well into the future. This Fund is targeted towards the development of housing units targeted for today's workforce.



A total of **\$200,000** was invested into these new units, with funding coming from the **DED Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), and the City of Valentine**. The total cost to build these two homes was \$280,000 each. They were built by B-Squared Fine Homes, Kerry and Trevor Bukaske, who spoke at the event, *“We are really grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this project to bring new homes to the community.”*

In attendance to the ribbon cutting were **Lt. Governor Mike Foley, Valentine Economic Developer, Mike Burge**, representatives of the **Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) Sheryl Hiatt and Morgan Pearson**, three **CNEDD staff**, along with **numerous citizens of Valentine**.

The Lt. Governor was first to speak, saying how much fun it was to spend time in the City, as well as, *“Where is the workforce going to live? Right here, in this gorgeous, high-quality home. We just need to replicate this over-and-over again, all over this great state.”*

These are the fifth and sixth housing units that Valentine has been able to build or rehabilitate through the Rural Workforce housing program in as little as two years. Both representatives of DED spoke on how the **City is doing exemplary work with their housing in such a short time**.

The community is feeling the impact and are grateful for this funding. One resident in attendance stated, *“Thank you all for everything you've done to get us here.”*

CNEDD is proud to have played a part in bringing these new homes to Valentine, and are excited to see how far they go!



Mike Burge (Valentine Ec. Dev.)

Lt. Gov. Mike Foley

Morgan Pearson (DED)

Judy Petersen (CNEDD)

Trevor Bukaske (B-Squared Fine Homes)



Amber Ross (CNEDD)

Dodi Osburn (Realter)

Kerry Bukaske (B-Squared Fine Homes)

Pete Hale, (Valentine Resident)