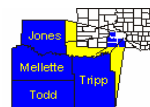


South Central RC&D

Ted Turner Cuts Ribbon for Turner Youth Community Center in Murdo, South Dakota



Ted Turner and the youth board members of the Jones County Turner Youth Foundation

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 11, 2009 to inaugurate the Turner Community Center (formally the old Murdo Theater). After about 2,000 hours of planning and hard labor, the Turner Community Center showed its first movie "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" on Wednesday November 11, 2009. The Turner Youth Foundation Board consists of three adults and six students; each student is a representative from each grade 7th -12th. The Turner Youth Foundation, one of the Turner's philanthropic projects, was established in 2004 with a focus on changes the youth would like to see happen in the community to keep their home town from dying by attracting more businesses. The Turner Youth Foundation sees the town of Murdo, like every small town, in need of economic growth. Their goal was to reopen the old theater that was closed since the 1970s to keep the local money in the community, and pull in people from other surrounding small communities because the nearest theater is 60 miles away. This project started in March of 2008. The Center will also be used as a community facility for others events, such as business meetings, social events, and for kids to play video games on big screen. This has been quite a learning experience for this group. They have learned about putting together a business plan, decided on a name for the theater, assisted in planning out fund raising events for this large project, and doing labor work to lay the concrete floor, install counters and theater seats, and paint walls. A total of \$96,000 was spent on this project. In 2008, the Turner Youth Foundation won the South Dakota Association of RC&D Council Outstanding Youth Award and won the Western RC&D Association (10 Western States) Outstanding Youth Award. These awards were presented on Wednesday November 11th, 2009 to the Turner Youth

Foundation members by Joe Leichtnam (Chair of the RC&D Award Committees) in the presence of Ted Turner, South Central RC&D staff, and other dignitaries from Jones County and Murdo.

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Partners

- Ted Turner Foundation
- South Dakota Community Foundation
- West Central Electric Club
- Murdo Area Chamber
- Jones County Community Foundation
- Jones County Rodeo Association
- Murdo Horizons
- Murdo Lions
- Golden West
- Murdo Spook House
- Kerns, Inc.
- Modern Woodmen
- Thrivent Financial
- Modern Woodmen
- Thrivent Financial
- Esmay Electric
- Cutting Edge Graphic
- Ellwanger Plumbing
- First Fidelity Bank
- Prairie Rangers 4-H Club-donated popcorn machine
- Fundraisers include
 - Wii Drawing
 - Talent Show
 - Tour of Homes
 - Lunch Stands
 - Street Dance
 - Harlem Basketball Game (players and referees were sponsored by local business)
- Other businesses and volunteers too numerous to mention

The theater will be run on a volunteer basis by the Turner Youth members and other community members.