

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**F O R  
I M M E D I A T E  
R E L E A S E**



## **Abingdon Community Unit School District #217 Wins National Award**

**October 27, 2008**

CINCINNATI – Abingdon Community Unit School District #217 from Abingdon, Ill., was recently awarded the 2008 CARES Award from the National Rural Education Association and Great American Financial Resources, Inc.

The Communities and Rural Education Service Award (CARES) recognizes outstanding efforts to build strong ties between rural school districts and the communities they serve.

Abingdon CUSD was awarded this honor because of their commitment to developing relationships within their community. For the last several years, the school has partnered with the community's Rotary/Blue Ribbon Committee to plan community activities designed to "bring the pride and spirit of Abingdon back." Activities have included "Spruce up the Town," an adopt-a-block program; city-wide garage sales; a 5k run; a holiday bus tour to a local nursing home; computer donations and training for local senior citizens; a father/daughter dance; a 14-hour music festival; community fireworks displays and so much more.

"When schools get involved with their local communities, the effects are widespread," said Mat Dutkiewicz, executive vice president for Great American Financial Resources. "Abingdon schools have created opportunities for community ties, and these efforts are an excellent example for other schools across the country to follow."

Abingdon CUSD representatives were presented with the award, which includes a \$5,000 prize for the school, from Great American Financial Resources at the NREA National Convention on Oct. 27, 2008.

For more information about the CARES award, visit [www.NREA.net](http://www.NREA.net).

### ***About the NREA:***

The **National Rural Education Association** (NREA) is the oldest established national organization of its kind in the United States. The organization represents more than 4,500 rural educators and is committed to providing services that enhance education opportunities for rural children. Find out more at [www.NREA.net](http://www.NREA.net).

### ***About Great American Financial Resources:***

The companies of **Great American Financial Resources, Inc.** (GAFRI) have provided retirement solutions for educators for more than 30 years. Through its subsidiaries, GAFRI markets retirement annuities and various forms of supplemental health insurance. An American Company Serving America's Educators, GAFRI is proud to recognize and support educators nationwide who make the future brighter for our children. For more information, visit [www.GAFRI.com](http://www.GAFRI.com).

###

Kyle Ketabchi  
VP, Creative Marketing Services  
Great American Financial Resources  
513-412-2801 (ph)  
513-412-2805 (fax)  
[kketabchi@gafri.com](mailto:kketabchi@gafri.com)

Web Site:  
[www.GAFRI.com](http://www.GAFRI.com)