

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2010

Contact: Janie Taylor, (512) 477-3563

Grant to Provide Critical Rehabilitation of Migrant Farm Workers' Homes



Pictured above: Carmen Gonzalez, MET Board Vice President; Hilda Escobar, MET Board Secretary; Jerry Romero, Chair of the TSAHC Advisory Council; and State Representative Armando Martinez

(Weslaco)—Motivation, Education and Training, Inc. (MET) accepted a \$50,000 grant from the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation today. Accepting the check on behalf of MET was Carmen Gonzalez, Vice President of the Board for MET and Hilda Escobar, Secretary of the Board for MET. The grant award was presented by Mr. Jerry Romero, Chair of the Advisory Council of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation and Texas State Representative Armando Martinez.

“Motivation, Education and Training, Inc. provides critical home rehabilitations to extremely low income homeowners who are seasonal farm workers,” said Jerry Romero, Chair of the Advisory Council of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. “The work MET does is important to the community they serve and we are excited to partner with them through this grant.”

“Farm worker families consistently live in extreme poverty so the services that MET provides, such as home rehabilitation, are vital for the families’ ability to make economic gains,” said State Representative Armando Martinez (D-Weslaco). “This grant from the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation will allow MET to increase the number of underserved families that have safe, decent and affordable housing.”

“We assist low income migrant/seasonal farm worker families who tend to live below the poverty level,” said Carmen Gonzalez, Vice President of the Board for MET. “Our home rehabilitation program is a huge benefit for these families and this grant from the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation will allow us to serve even more needy families.”

The grant is a part of the Texas Foundations Fund Program of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. The grant will be used to perform critical repairs on 8 farm worker owner-occupied homes in Willacy, Starr, Zavala, Maverick, and Dimmitt Counties. Funds will enable MET to address more serious defects which could not be otherwise addressed given limited funding. MET will focus funds on houses that are severely substandard and require more resources to bring homes up to standard. It is anticipated that no more than \$10,000 per household will be used. The Texas Foundations Fund funds will be coupled with \$30,000 from MET’s Migrant & Seasonal Farm worker Housing Assistance Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor Migrant and Seasonal Farm worker Jobs Program. Furthermore, three of the 8 households have a family member that has a disability.

MET received one of five grants awarded this year across Texas by the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation as part of the Texas Foundations Fund Program. Eligible grant applicants were nonprofit organizations and rural government entities. Specifically, grants were awarded for the construction, rehabilitation and/or critical repair of owner-occupied single family homes and for the provision of supportive services in multifamily housing. Income levels of families served through this grant must be at 50% of the Area Medium Income or less.

About Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET)

Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded by a variety of public and private grants and contracts. The organization was founded for the purpose of providing academic and vocational training to migrant and seasonal farm workers, with the objective of furthering economic self-sufficiency for MET participants. While serving farm workers is still the cornerstone of the agency’s mission, MET has broadened its scope to include initiatives that target low-income and disadvantaged populations throughout the agency’s service area. The agency was incorporated in 1967 and operates on a statewide basis in Texas, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Please visit www.metinc.org.