



NEWS RELEASE

Contact

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$11,500 IN GRANT FUNDS TO LAFAYETTE COUNTY ENTERPRISES

In a mock check ceremony on December 15, 2009, Lafayette County Enterprises, Inc. received a Rural Business Enterprise Grant for \$11,500. Funds were distributed for the purchase of a new copy machine and to replace forklift batteries for the sheltered workshop. Lafayette County Enterprises employs 58 disabled people and has a staff of 10.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said, "Missouri Sheltered Workshops provide an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to find meaningful employment. I am pleased these federal funds will help to purchase a new copier and replace forklift batteries and so Lafayette County Enterprises can continue with the important role they play in the community."

"This funding will allow Lafayette County Enterprises to continue providing valuable services to the community while ensuring a positive working environment for its employees," stated U.S. Representative Ike Skelton.

"Sheltered workshops of the kind found in Lafayette County provide an essential service to their communities," said Janie Dunning, USDA Rural Development State Director. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Obama's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that the community will benefit from the services of the sheltered workshop. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects."



Pictured left to right: Robert Hagedorn, Representative Ike Skelton's office; Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director, USDA Rural Development; Greg Razer, Senator Claire McCaskill's office; Kathy Wahlers, Asst. Operations Director, Lafayette Co. Enterprises; Mark Simmons, Area III Specialist, USDA Rural Development; Brent Blackwell, Executive Director, Lafayette Co. Enterprises

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2nd Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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