

Contact:

Kevin Hinkebein

573-756-6413 Ext. 5

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES FUNDING WITH MISSOURI COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT INDUSTRIES

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the Missouri Community Improvement Industries with a \$33,600 Mock Check on Wednesday June 30. The funds will be used to purchase an electric forklift machine. The forklift will increase the efficiency and create additional jobs for the employees at the sheltered workshop.

“Congratulations to those who secured these funds which will allow Missouri Community Improvement Industries to expand and enhance the important work they are doing,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “In these tough economic times, I am particularly pleased that they will be able to hire additional staff to support their critical mission.”

“Improving the equipment at the Missouri Community Improvement Industries Sheltered Workshop will help provide jobs for Missourians who might otherwise not have been able to participate in the work force,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I’m pleased the USDA grant funds used to purchase a new forklift will improve this important program for the Farmington community.

“I’ve been very proud to visit the sheltered workshop in Farmington, and I have seen firsthand the outstanding work done by the employees there. These funds will allow the contributions of the workers at the Farmington sheltered workshop to continue to expand and improve. I’m very pleased USDA Rural Development has identified this opportunity for the award of funding that will make a big difference in the lives of so many members of our community,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Dunning said, “I would like to congratulate the Missouri Community Improvement Industries for their efforts in improving their services to individuals with developmental disabilities. “This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community.” “This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s



Pictured are (from left to right), Christy F. Mercer, District Director for Senator Claire McCaskill; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director; Terry Luetkemeyer, Rural Development Area Director Farmington, MO; Ginger Williams, Director MCII; Steve Kippenberger, Forklift Operator; Heather Garner, Representative for Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson; and Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Area Specialist, Farmington, MO.

**mission 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. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”**

**“On behalf of the MCII Board of Directors, I would like to thank the USDA for the opportunity to receive a Rural Business Enterprise Grant,” said Ginger Williams, the General Manager and Secretary of the Board. “The \$33,600 we received from this grant allowed us to purchase a new electric forklift, which is not only more economical to operate, but is the first new forklift MCII has owned in its 35 years of being in business. Again, we thank the USDA for their generosity!”**

**Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Area Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640, 573-756-6413, Ext. 5 or by email at [kevin.hinkebein@mo.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.hinkebein@mo.usda.gov).**

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).