



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A \$33,600 GRANT TO THE MONROE CITY SHELTERED WORKSHOP

On October 8, 2008, USDA Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall presented the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop with a mock check for \$33,600. The funds have been used for the purchase of a new supplemental heating system which will greatly offset the higher utility costs of the workshop.

“Sheltered workshops provide employment opportunities for many Missourians who otherwise may not have had the same chance,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I am pleased that this grant will allow the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop to expand this successful program and cut energy costs as we face the winter’s high cost of heat.”

“I am pleased USDA Rural Development was able to partner with the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop on this vital project,” said U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof. “Connie Thurman and her staff have faced numerous obstacles through the past few years, and yet they have successfully met each challenge along the way. I’m very thankful for the work done on this project by USDA Rural Development officials and the staff and board of the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop. This much-needed funding will help deflate the workshop’s rising utility costs for years to come, and it is yet another example of our tax dollars coming back to work for us in rural Missouri.”

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Morris Westfall State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senator “Kit” Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project for the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop.”



Holding check on each end is Connie Thurman the Administrator of the Workshop and Morris Westfall the State Director for USDA Rural Development. Behind Connie to her right is State Representative Paul Quinn and Llona Wiess (to Connie's left) of Senator Claire McCaskill's office, behind Morris to his right is Scott Callicott (white shirt and tie) of Congressman Kenny Hulshof's office, to the far right of the picture in blue blazer is Steven Gerrish of USDA Rural Development and rest of the folks are board members and staff of the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop.

USDA funds through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program will allow the Sheltered Workshop to purchase this necessary equipment.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Steven Gerrish, at the Moberly Rural Development office, 2995 County Road 1325, Moberly, MO 65270 or call the office at 660-263-7400 ext. 4.

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