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NORTHEAST MISSOURI SHELTERED WORKSHOP RECEIVES USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced the awarding of \$25,000 to Northeast Missouri Sheltered Workshop, Inc. and presented a Mock Check to Board President Charles Clayton and the employees in a ceremony April 15, 2010 at the workshop.

USDA Rural Development provided a Rural Business Enterprise Grant of \$25,000 to purchase a new forklift. The purchase of this essential equipment will assist and improve the daily operations of the workshop recycling business. The Northeast Missouri Sheltered Workshop employs approximately 35 persons. The workshop recycling business is a vital business to the citizens of Hannibal.



Pictured are employees of the Sheltered Workshop along with Rural Development officials.

President Charles Clayton stated, "On behalf of the Board of Directors and the employees of the Northeast Missouri Sheltered Workshop, I would like to thank the USDA Rural Development organization for their support and assistance in funding equipment needed for our recycling program. Without the Grant provided through USDA, we would not have been able to afford the recently purchased forklift. This forklift was needed to replace an older unit that was not economically feasible to repair. The cost to purchase this forklift would have been well beyond our normal budget."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Obama's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

The funds are part of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, which provides grants to public bodies and non-profit entities to support the development of small and emerging business enterprises in rural areas and towns up to 50,000 in population.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Cheryl Elliott, Area Specialist, 17623 Hwy 19, New London, MO 63459, or by email to cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov or by calling (573) 985-7211 extension 4.

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