



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO SHELTERED INDUSTRIES OF THE MERAMEC VALLEY

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented Dr. Robert Rhodes, President of Sheltered Industries of the Meramec Valley, Inc. with a \$57,300 Mock Check on Thursday, August 21, 2008. The funds will be used to purchase packaging equipment which will provide an additional 10 jobs at the workshop.

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, "The Sheltered Workshop is a wonderful organization that gives disabled Missourians the opportunity to work. I am pleased this federal funding will help provide the necessary equipment to improve their work environment."

U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof said, "Rural Development projects like this illustrate the great partnership USDA has with our local communities. These are your tax dollars coming home to work for you. Not only will this funding provide much-needed packaging equipment, it will also offer additional jobs for Sheltered Industries. I appreciate the cooperation between officials at all levels to make this happen."

Westfall said, "Sheltered workshops of the kind found in Franklin County provide an essential service to their communities. These projects mirror USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush'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 dollars for funding these projects."

Eric Giebler, Chief Executive Officer of SIMV stated, "We are honored and pleased to have received this award from Rural Development for the equipment purchased from



Pictured left to right: Kevin Hinkebein, Area Specialist, Farmington, Bob Burns, Representative for Senator Claire McCaskill, Jenni Riegel, Representative for Congressman Kenny Hulshof, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director, Robert Rhodes, President, SIMV, Eric Gorzik, Chief Operating Officer, SIMV, Diana Halmick, Resource Director, SIMV, Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Farmington, James Schatz, Mayor of Sullivan

Packaging Systems. This equipment will further enhance productive opportunities for our disabled workers.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Rural Development Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 4.

“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).