



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A \$40,000 GRANT TO THE MONROE CITY SHELTERED WORKSHOP

On June 6, 2008, USDA Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall presented the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop with a mock check for \$40,000. The funds will be used for the purchase of essential equipment to enhance daily operations, increase efficiency, and improve safety.

U.S. Senator Bond stated, "Missouri Sheltered Workshops are an important employment resource for people with disabilities and this new equipment is important to their safety. I commend the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop for their 40 years of service and the USDA Rural Development staff for helping to make these funds available."

"Across the state, Missouri Sheltered Workshops provide an opportunity for persons with disabilities to find meaningful employment," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. "I applaud the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop for 40 years of service to Monroe City and am pleased that this federal funding will help them to replace the equipment they lost and to continue with the important role they play in the community."

"I am pleased to partner with USDA Rural Development to provide these vital and necessary funds for the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop," said Congressman Kenny Hulshof. "It's been a long road to recovery that Connie Thurman, the board, her staff, and workshop clients have had to travel since March 2006. These funds will be an additional boost to improve the workshop's efficiency and safety in the future, and they're a great example of how the federal government and USDA can work to help our rural communities."

"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.



The above picture is a group photo with the Monroe City Sheltered Workshop board in the back ground to include Scott Calicot of Congressman Kenny Hulshof's office, State Senator Wes Shoemyer, Llona Wiess of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill's office, and State Representative Paul Quinn. With the check is USDA Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall and Monroe City Sheltered Workshop Administrator Connie Thurman.

Representative Kenny Hulshof for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project for 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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