



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A \$56,000 GRANT TO THE CITY OF MACON

On November 20th, 2008, USDA Rural Development Missouri State Director Morris Westfall presented the City of Macon with a mock check for \$56,000. The funds will be used for renovations to an existing facility on the south edge of Macon that will eventually be the site for a new advanced technology training center.

Allan Muncy, City Administrator stated, "The City of Macon in partnership with USDA has made a large commitment to improving the opportunities and the quality of life for the regions citizens. The Mayor and City Council has taken another step forward in their vision of the future for the City of Macon. The main component of a community's growth and economic development hinges greatly on the education and training of its citizens. This project will be a helpful tool for furthering that education and training."

"This new facility will help arm the residents of Macon with important skills they need to succeed in their careers and improve their lives," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm pleased to see the additional resources and opportunities that these federal dollars will provide to the community."

"I am pleased to partner with USDA Rural Development and the City of Macon on this essential project," U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof said. "The chance to provide the funding to help renovate this facility to be used for advanced training for employees and citizens in the region is a tremendous opportunity. City officials continue to pursue opportunities to make their workforce well trained for existing businesses while making it a very attractive environment for new business ventures as well. This step is just the latest in that continuing effort. I commend



Left to right: Linda Farmer of the Macon City council, State Representative Tom Shively, Gene Welch of the city council, Dale Bagley the City of Macon Mayor, Dale Wyatt (red hat) of the city council, Jon Dwiggins of the city council and soon to be a new Macon county commissioner, Sherri Muncy a local citizen and supporter, Allan Muncy the City of Macon City Administrator, Denise Bennett the Director of the Macon County Economic Development Corporation, Morris Westfall the State Director for USDA Rural Development, Greg Young the Macon City Inspector, Darla Dwiggins with Workforce Development, Scott Callicott with Congressman Kenny Hulshof's office, and Steven Gerrish with USDA Rural Development.

officials with USDA Rural Development and the City of Macon for committing themselves to this vision of progress in the region.”

"The Macon County Economic Development Office is thrilled to have the City of Macon Training Campus in our community," stated Denise Bennett the Director of Macon County Economic Development. "This program will provide great opportunities for students, of all ages, through the various programs offered. We are grateful to USDA for their efforts and funding to renovate an existing facility for this purpose. Also, thanks to the City of Macon, a 2008 Dream Community, for purchasing and donating the facility for the Training Campus. Macon County Economic Development looks forward to assisting by way of collaborative education efforts, business and community awareness and marketing"

"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 Westfall. "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 City of Macon.

USDA funds through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program have allowed the City of Macon to secure funds to complete these building renovations.

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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