



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Steven Gerrish 660-263-7400 ext. 4

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$10,000 TO THE MACON COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP, INC.

U. S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof joined Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, in Macon on Thursday, September 13, 2007 to present the Macon County Sheltered Workshop, Inc., a mock check for \$10,000. The grant is through the USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program. The funds will be used to purchase essential equipment to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of the daily operations of the Macon County Sheltered Workshop.

"This funding will bring much-needed resources to Macon County," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "Competitive grants and loans send federal dollars back to Missouri in a fiscally responsible way."

Hulshof stated, "

"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 Branum. "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."

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



Pictured left to Right Deanne Hackman, Macon County Sheltered Workshop board member; Tim Shively, State Representative; Drew Belt, County Commissioner; Ronnie Switzer, County Commissioner; Allan Wyatt, County Presiding Commissioner; Mr. Willis, a supporter of the Workshop; Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director; David Bowen, Workshop employee; Congressman Kenny Hulshof; Larry Gibson, Workshop Board President, Debbie Maples, Workshop Executive Manager; Vickey Teter, Workshop employee; Donnie Thrasher, Workshop employee; Nakia Voyles (holding corner of check), Workshop employee; Lois Nolan (dark glasses), Public Administrator for Macon County; Jan Vansickle, Chairman of Senate Bill 40 funds; Lewis Ash, Executive Director for Macon Chamber of Commerce; Frank Withrow, Macon County Economic Development Director; Steven Gerrish, USDA Rural Development; and Llona Wiess of Senator Claire McCaskill's office.

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 by contacting 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.

**“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).