



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A \$51,000 GRANT TO THE RANDOLPH COUNTY SHELTERED INDUSTRIES, INC

On October 22, 2008, USDA Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall presented the Randolph County Sheltered Industries, Inc with a mock check for \$51,000. The funds have been used for the purchase of a plastics baler and a new box sealer machine.

“Sheltered workshops provide opportunity to Missourians who may not have otherwise been able to join the work force,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I’m pleased these federal funds will help Randolph County continue to improve the lives of others through providing skills training and employment that they may not have received otherwise.”

“I am very pleased to be part of this project,” Congressman Kenny Hulshof said. “Through these funds, Randolph County Sheltered Industries can improve their already successful operations, expand their workforce, and continue to grow for the future. I greatly appreciate this vital partnership between the workshop and USDA Rural Development. This is yet another great example of how our tax dollars sent to Washington, D.C., come back to make a positive difference in Missouri.”

“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. Representative Kenny Hulshof for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project for the Randolph Sheltered Industries, Inc. workshop.”

USDA funds through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program has allowed 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



Included in the picture are: Llona Wiess representative of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill's office; Ron Gilmer, Sheltered Workshop manager; Tim Rich representative of Congressman Kenny Hulshof's office; USDA Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall; State Senator Chuck Graham; Steven Gerrish of USDA Rural Development., and Board members of the Sheltered Workshop.

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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"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).