

BOB DOLE



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WICHITA CENTER FOR HANDICAPPED WINS NATIONAL HONORS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that the Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped in Wichita has been selected as one of eleven outstanding private/public partnership projects in the nation.

According to Dole, the Wichita center will receive the Housing and Urban Development National Community Development Recognition Award.

"This is high tribute indeed considering the fact that only eleven such projects were picked to receive this award," Dole said. "I am especially proud that a Kansas project has been judged a winner."

The Kansas Elks Training Center combines \$602,000 in public funds with \$520,000 in private investment to produce a facility that creates new jobs, training and opportunities for the handicapped.

"This center is an outstanding example of local people solving local problems without turning to Washington for a costly federal handout," Dole said. "Cooperation between private and public sectors is one significant way we can help slice the federal deficit. By working together, the responsible citizens of Wichita have created 40 new jobs -- 30 for the handicapped -- and saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars. This is in addition to the superb training and job placement services offered to 1,000 handicapped Kansans."

According to the Elks Training Center, the Wichita project saves more than \$2.5 million in public assistance funds through its 70 county employment and placement program.

The center manufactures air filters and a 3-wheel vehicle called a "Ketch-All".