

# A Story of Compassion

## USDA Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

### Harvest Assembly

Fair Play, Missouri

Harvest Assembly located in Fair Play, Missouri, received a \$9,970 Community Facility Grant from USDA Rural Development for Health and Fitness Equipment to be used as part of their Community Wellness Program. The new exercise equipment paid for with the grant funds will be located in the Fitness Center that will be part of the new 28,000 square foot Harvest Assembly Church and will be open to the 418 residents of Fair Play at least 35 hours per week.



Randy Mathews, Associate Pastor; Evelyn Shaulis; Lyle Shaulis, Pastor; Greg Drumm, State Director; Jerry Fisher, Area Director

Fair Play reach their own healthy lifestyle goals.”

The Fitness Center will house a full court gymnasium, youth center, coffee house and senior center. With a population of only 418 residents, recreational and social

options are very limited in Fair Play. The new Fitness Center and Church will offer the opportunity for all the area residents including the youth and senior citizens to socialize and communicate thereby building stronger relationships and a stronger community.

Harvest Assembly is committed to ensuring the citizens of Fair Play have access to physical exercise classes and ongoing education in both nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Pastor Lyle Shaulis stated, “It has always been our mission at Harvest Assembly to minister to our community both spiritually and physically. The spiritual disciplines of prayer and studying the bible result in spiritual health. The disciplines of exercise, weight training, and a healthy diet result in a more healthy body. We are thankful for the grant monies that have enabled us to provide quality fitness equipment that will help many people in

### How the Initiative is Helping

In the spirit of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative by President George W. Bush, the Harvest Assembly has in partnership with Rural Development, become one of the first faith-based organizations in Missouri to receive Community Facility Grant funds.

USDA Rural Development in partnership with Harvest Assembly demonstrates that faith-based organizations are often the leaders in communities providing services to the residents. This small grant, made possible in part through the President’s Faith-Based and Community Initiatives,



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has the potential to have a long range effect on the residents' health, wellness, spiritual, and social lifestyle.

### About the Organization

When Lyle Shaulis became pastor of the Fair Play Assembly Church in January, 1998, they only had 12 members. He reorganized the Church into Harvest

Assembly as a nonprofit corporation in 2000 and continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God Churches. The Church has grown from the 12 members to over 300 in the 8 years through the tireless work and dreams of Pastor Shaulis and his wife Evelyn. The first services were held in the new church facility in October 2005 with over 400 in attendance.

