

Press Release

Friday, July 10, 2009

AgStar Awards \$3000 in Support of Widely Popular Recycling Program

Funding from the The Agstar Fund for Rural America will be used to purchase a recycling floor scale used to more efficiently weigh collected materials.

MANKATO - The AgStar Fund for Rural America recently awarded a \$3,000 grant to the Recycling Association of Minnesota's Message in a Bottle® program in the greater Mankato area.

The funding will be used by MRCI WorkSource to purchase a floor scale needed to more efficiently weigh collected recyclables. Since the Recycling Program began over a year ago, over 25,000 pounds of bottles, cans, and other recyclables have been collected in large bottle shaped containers from area gas stations, stores, business break rooms, and various other locations.

"The program has not only increased local awareness of the importance of recycling, it has provided wonderful job opportunities for people with disabilities," said Linda Leiding, Senior Vice President of Programs at MRCI WorkSource, the organization that operates the program. "I want to thank AgStar for their continued support of this program, and of people with disabilities."

The goal of the Message in a Bottle program is to increase opportunities for individuals to recycle. The easily recognizable containers have become a symbol of recycling away from home, allowing individuals to easily dispose of plastic bottles and cans. For more information on the program, including how to obtain a recycling container for your business, call MRCI at (507) 386-5799 and ask for Tammi Leiferman.

The Message in a Bottle away-from-home recycling program in Mankato is part of the Message in a Bottle Project of the Recycling Association of Minnesota. Local sponsors include MRCI, Pepsi, Blue Earth County, LJP Waste and Recycling, and Radio Mankato.



*For additional information,
please contact:*

Linda Leiding
Senior Vice President of Programs
MRCI WorkSource
15 Map Drive
Mankato, MN 56001
(507)386-5600
lleiding@mrciworksource.org