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The Pulaski County Sheltered Workshop Announces the Harvested Here Community Kitchen

Richland, MO - 6 April, 2017 - The Pulaski County Sheltered Workshop is moving towards a new model of employment for the differently-abled workforce it serves and is pleased to announce the opening of its Harvested Here Community Kitchen at its facility in Richland.

The Harvested Here Community Kitchen is the first and only custom processing and packaging facility in the State meant to serve small- and mid-sized farmers looking to expand their market reach through value-added production and retail and institutional food safety compliance and packaging standards. The Kitchen, staffed by PCSW employees with decades of experience in skilled piece-work and above and beyond quality assurance measures, houses a variety of processing and packaging equipment, along with cooler and food storage space, and will seek to serve local farmers and producers within the State looking to scale up their operations. Harvested Here will offer rental space to producers looking to develop new products and will provide co-packing services, marketing and branding assistance, regulatory compliance, recipe and product development, and other services.

"Moving towards richer, better employment opportunities for our unique workforce is really our goal here but we believe the Kitchen will be of great benefit to our community, as well," Lacie Karr, PCSW's General Manager said. Through the Workshop's founding and management of the Farmers' Market at the Fort Leonard Wood installation and within the local food system, Samantha Kramer, PCSW's Project Coordinator and Market Manager said, "it's obvious that Missouri and specifically within our region, there are plenty of small producers that would love to get into groceries and restaurants, but they lack the capital, time, or understanding of the regulatory compliance necessary. Within the Kitchen, we're working hard to establish a value-chain for our hometowns that helps overcome those barriers so more folks can find and buy local, fresh, healthy foods and so we can keep these farmers on their land, doing what they love."

For more information about PCSW and the Harvested Here Community Kitchen, please contact PCSW at 573.765.2500 or by email at eating.green@pcsw.org.