



North Carolina Department of Administration

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Moses Carey Jr., Secretary

Date: June 7, 2011

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Release: Immediate

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FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY ENABLES PERSON COUNTY GROUP HOME TO PROVIDE JOB SKILLS, INDEPENDENCE

RALEIGH – Chester W. may not know a lot about what’s involved in procuring Federal surplus property to support nonprofit programs in North Carolina, but he does know that it’s enabled him to have a reliable, paying job – and he no longer has to walk to medical appointments or buy food.

“I cut grass,” said Chester, a longtime participant of Person County Group Home Inc. (PCGH) in Roxboro. “I don’t need nobody to get to work. I take care of myself.”

Chester and two other program participants joined PCGH Director David Forsythe in Raleigh today when Forsythe accepted the first-ever Associate Member of the Year Award from Scott Pepperman, Executive Director of the Philadelphia-based [National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property](#) (NASASP). Administration Secretary Moses Carey accepted a NASASP letter of appreciation on behalf of Gov. Bev Perdue and Division Director of Surplus Property Mickey Sauls accepted a NASASP award presented to the state’s [Federal Surplus Property Agency](#).

“Federal Surplus was not set up to aid people with disabilities, but its property has a value beyond its original life,” Forsythe said. “All people have value, too. Property we have acquired is helping teach job skills and responsibility, as well as provide a degree of independence.”

Forsythe’s program was nominated for recognition by Federal Surplus Property Officer Ronnie Strickland. While NASASP received many nominations from member agencies across the country, Pepperman said PCGH stood out.

“We felt strongly about using Federal surplus property to improve the quality of people’s lives,” Pepperman said, adding that NASASP also works with emergency management officials to provide needed goods after floods, hurricanes and tornados, including the storm that recently tore across North Carolina. “What David has been able to accomplish is a wonderful example of creativity and consistent use of our program.”

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Creativity was required when Forsythe acquired the heavy-duty tower Chester operates. He confirmed with local law enforcement officials that a state drivers license was not required for its operation, and that Chester could use it not only to travel to job sites – he maintains 10 acres of land – but also for personal needs, like grocery shopping and doctor’s visits.

“It’s the sort of vehicle you’d see at an airport to tow planes,” Forsythe said, “except Chester uses it to tow landscaping equipment. It replaced one we got for him years ago that was an open vehicle. This allows him to travel safely regardless of weather.”

Chester said no one is surprised when he pulls up at a store in this heavy vehicle, which requires tractor-trailer tires. “I just park at the far end and walk,” he said. “It’s a lot better than walking from home.”

To learn more about budget-stretcher items or qualification to purchase goods from the Federal Surplus Property Agency, visit <http://www.doa.nc.gov/fsp/> or call 919-733-3885.

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Photo artlines:

NASASP1 (from left): Chester W. Mike S. David Forsythe, Jeff R., Scott Pepperman, Ronnie Strickland, Moses Carey, Mickey Sauls

NASASP2: Administration Secretary Moses Carey

NASASP3: Scott Pepperman, NASASP Executive Director, presents the first-ever Associate Member of the Year Award to David Forsythe of Person County Group Home Inc. of Roxboro.

NASASP4: David Forsythe