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Inmate Built Homes Featured in Corrections Publication

(Pierre) - The Governor's Affordable Housing Project is once again featured in a national publication. The article entitled "Building Trade: Inmates Build Houses For The Elderly" appears in the March/April 2000 issue of Corrections Technology & Management magazine.

The CTM article explores the innovative program's beginnings, struggles and successes as well as the delicate balance needed to put the inmate's to work while not infringing on the private sector.

Governor William J. Janklow proposed starting the project in 1994 in order to build affordable housing for senior citizens and the handicapped. Inmates construct the 768-square foot or 960-square foot homes inside the walls of the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. Cabinets for the homes are built by inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. Inmates are now building day care centers for communities across the state.

The homes are sold by the South Dakota Housing Development Authority for \$22,000 to \$25,000. Once completed, the homes are then delivered by truck to the homebuyer's community. Homebuyer's are responsible for purchasing a lot, set-up costs including a foundation, utility hook-ups and fees, landscaping, floor coverings and appliances.

The housing project has also been featured in People Magazine, Corrections Today Magazine and was named one of the "Best in the Business" community service projects by the American Correctional Association and one of the "Best 100 Practices" by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.