



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Housing Project Honored June 10, 1999 & July 27, 1999

The Governor's Affordable Housing Program, which involves inmate labor, has been honored as one of the "Best in the Business" community service projects by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The project also was named among the 100 Best Practices by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The program is profiled in the June 1999 edition of Corrections Today, the official publication of the ACA.



The housing program was created by Governor William J. Janklow as a solution to several problems facing South Dakota. Governor Janklow wanted to find affordable housing for senior citizens who wished to remain independent in their hometowns, and at the same time, assist the Department of Corrections with developing more programs for prison inmates.

"It's a win-win-win project," says Janklow in the article. "My goal is to put every inmate into a meaningful routine, give them the skills to be successful upon release, and give them the opportunity to see what it's like to be productive and to contribute to society rather than take away from it." Thirty percent of the inmates who worked on the program and have since been released are now working in the construction field.

The simplified design of the homes and prison labor keeps the cost of the homes low. Inmates construct the modular homes at the Springfield State Prison. The homes are then sold to seniors and disabled persons in communities with populations of less than 5,000. The homes are then taken to the purchaser's lots.

More than 300 homes have been built by the inmates. The program has been expanded to include the building of day care centers for smaller communities in South Dakota.