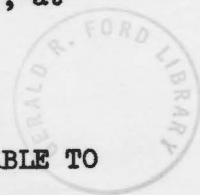


The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation, Grand Rapids, MI, April 10, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Dedication of the new building of the Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation, 4 p.m. April 10, 1972, at 215 Sheldon, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.



I AM VERY PLEASED AND VERY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE DEDICATION OF THIS FINE BUILDING.

I AM PLEASED AND PROUD BECAUSE THIS BUILDING SYMBOLIZES THE WONDERFUL WORK BEING DONE BY GENEROUS-HEARTED CITIZENS OF GRAND RAPIDS UNDER THE SPLENDID LEADERSHIP OF LAUREN WONDERGEM AND BUD BAXTER.

I AM ALSO PLEASED AND PROUD BECAUSE THIS BUILDING SYMBOLIZES THE BEST KIND OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE

Page 2

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY TOWARD BRINGING ABOUT THE REHABILITATION OF OUR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT THE FEDERAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1973 CALLS FOR \$68,785,000 TO BE SPENT ON PROJECTS OF THIS KIND -- 487 SUCH PROJECTS. IT MIGHT ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO YOU TO KNOW THAT THE FUNDING LEVEL FOR FISCAL 1973 FOR THE BASIC FEDERAL GRANTS AIMED AT REHABILITATING HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS AND PLACING THEM IN PRODUCTIVE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IS \$610 MILLION.

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THAT'S AN INCREASE OF \$50 MILLION OVER FISCAL 1972 AND \$107 MILLION GREATER THAN THE 1971 LEVEL.

IT IS MOST GRATIFYING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$288,127 TOWARD THE OVERALL FINANCING OF OUR LOCAL PROJECT -- THE REMODELING AND EQUIPPING OF THIS BUILDING. BUT IT IS EVEN MORE GRATIFYING THAT LOCAL PEOPLE -- THE AGENCY AND THE COMMUNITY -- PROVIDED A 20 PER CENT MATCHING BASE.

*United Fund
&
Community Service*

TO ALL OF YOU, THEN, MY CONGRATULATIONS.

THIS IS A SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT, ONE OF WHICH YOU CAN ALL BE PROUD AND ONE WHICH WILL PRODUCE INNUMERABLE BENEFITS AND GREAT GOOD.

Money/Brick & Mortar/



Office Copy

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the dedication of the new building of the Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation, 4 p.m. April 10, 1972, at 215 Sheldon S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.

I am very pleased and very proud to be able to take part in the dedication of this fine building.

I am pleased and proud because this building ~~and~~ symbolizes the wonderful work being done by generous-hearted citizens of Grand Rapids under the splendid leadership of Lauren Wondergem and ~~Bud Baxter~~ Bud Baxter.

I am also pleased and proud because this building symbolizes the best kind of cooperation between the Federal Government and the community toward bringing about the rehabilitation of our handicapped people.

It might interest you to know that the Federal Budget for fiscal 1973 calls for \$68,785,000 to be spent on projects of this kind--487 such projects. It might also be of interest to you to know that the ~~for~~ funding level for fiscal 1973 for the basic Federal grants aimed at rehabilitating handicapped individuals and placing them in productive gainful employment is \$610 million. That's an increase of \$50 million over fiscal 1972 and \$107 million greater than the 1971 level.

It is most~~ly~~ gratifying~~g~~ that the Federal Government has made a contribution of \$288,127 toward the overall financing of our local project--the remodeling and equipping of this building. But it is even more gratifying that local people--the agency and the community--provided a 20 per cent matching ~~base~~ base.

To all of you, then, my congratulations. This is a splendid achievement, one ~~of~~ of which you can all be proud~~ed~~ and one which will produce innumerable benefits and great good.

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