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Mountain Creek Cabins More-Than-Doubling Luxury Lodging *The Progress Fund backs a future built with logs*

Bruceton Mills, PA – Jan. 20, 2005 – In response to overwhelming demand for their three existing rental cabins, Mountain Creek Cabins has begun preparing sites for four new luxury log lodges. The construction comes thanks in part to The Progress Fund’s efforts to aid new and growing tourism businesses in West Virginia.

The building boom began when Mark Jenkins, who successfully owned and managed an office-cleaning business for 12 years, decided he wanted a job that kept him in the mountains. So in 2003, he and his wife, Sheila, opened three rental cabins on their wooded, 173-acre property near Morgantown. These were no ordinary cabins. With hot tubs, gas grills, gas fireplaces, fully equipped kitchens, hardwood floors and log furniture, they offered pampering in a pioneer setting. The business took off. “The only problem was, I was turning away customers every weekend,” says Mark.

Seeking to expand, Mark and Sheila turned first to Bruceton Bank, which financed their original three cabins. “They said they couldn’t lend us enough without getting another lender involved,” Mark says. Mark asked around about other financing sources, and the Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau referred him to The Progress Fund. The Progress Fund agreed to lend \$125,000, which, along with Bruceton Bank’s financing, covers the construction of four new cabins.

“Mountain Creek Cabins was a perfect fit with one of our main goals – financing distinctive tourism offerings in West Virginia,” says David A. Kahley, President & CEO of The Progress Fund. “This loan really adds momentum to our West Virginia operations, and to the Morgantown area’s growth as a tourism destination.”

Mark and Sheila use local suppliers and partner with several area whitewater rafting companies. They provide housing for skiers and visitors to adjacent Cooper’s Rock State Forest.

An impact study by the Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau shows that Mountain Creek Cabins added \$288,000 to the local economy during its first year in business. Due to open by summer, the new cabins should more than double that impact – without scarring the scenery. “This kind of development is nice, because you’re not building a mall,” says Mark. “You keep the character of the land.”

For information, bookings, tours or directions, call Mark or Sheila Jenkins, (866) 379-7548, or visit www.mountaincreekcabins.com. For information about The Progress Fund, call (724) 529-0384, or visit www.progressfund.org.

The Progress Fund is a vigorous non-profit loan fund that creates jobs and improves communities by providing entrepreneurial coaching and capital to small businesses in the travel & tourism industry. The Progress Fund serves 39 counties in Pennsylvania and the entire state of West Virginia. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has loaned more than \$8 million to 125 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 725 jobs. The Progress Fund is an Equal Opportunity Lender. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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