FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David A. Kahley Casey and Michelle Wible

President & CEO Owners

The Progress Fund Main Street Café (724) 529-0384 (814) 669-4494

<u>dkahley@progressfund.org</u> <u>flyquy94@verizon.net</u>

Landmark Restaurant Takes Flight

Wing night won't be the only well-known recreation to take off at the renewed Main Street Café.

Alexandria, PA - March 3, 2006 - Casey and Michelle Wible knew the Main Street Café would be the place to let their personality shine.

The Main Street Café has been a well-known destination for local residents, college students, and boaters and anglers at nearby Raystown Lake. "It's definitely the landmark of Alexandria," Casey says of the restaurant, which opened in 1991 under its original owners.

From the moment Casey first entered the Café, he saw the potential to make it something even better: the restaurant has a "sporting atmosphere" that reflects Casey's own attitude to life, with professional and college games on televisions everywhere – even the bathrooms – and new signature menu items to go with the high-quality menu, the restaurant should really fly with patrons bent on recreation of every sort.

Now the Wibles envision outdoor patio dining by the nearby Juniata River to attract more tourists, and Internet access to attract more Juniata College students to his restaurant. They have already begun to offer entertainment in the Café, and is now open on Mondays for the first time.

Main Street sports a steam bar and a large menu full of pastas, seafood, and a variety of appetizers, grilled sandwiches, salads, steaks and chicken dishes. The Café already employees 36, and Casey may take on more in the summer.

"This place definitely fits my personality," says 30-year-old Casey. He has 13 years of experience with Hoss's Steak and Sea House, working his way up from the dish room, beginning at age 17, all the way to associate manager.

Getting this dream off the runway "wasn't easy," Casey says, but the Wibles found some support to get rolling. The Progress Fund, partnering for the first time with central Pennsylvania's Omega Bank, and Pennsylvania's First Industries Program, provided the Wibles with the funding they needed.

"Casey knows the industry well," says Jim Gonsman, Commercial Loan Officer for The Progress Fund, who helped the Wibles get the project off the ground. Helping secure the Main Street Café's future was important to the economy of Huntingdon County, where tourism is the second largest industry.

"It wasn't easy," says Casey about realizing his dream. "In a deal of this magnitude, details are what it came down to. I had a pretty comprehensive business plan and experience behind me. I knew what I wanted to do."

Now, with any luck – and a lot of hosting talent – more than Wing Night will attract patrons to the Main Street Café.

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, the entire state of West Virginia, and Appalachian Ohio. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has loaned more than \$13 million to 120 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 990 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.