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Inne at Watson's Choice to hold event center Grand Opening July 25

The Progress Fund helps bring Uniontown-area visitors elegant new conference option

Uniontown, PA – July 19, 2007 – A 200-year-old estate will be reborn on Wednesday, July 25, with the Grand Opening of the Stable Event Center, part of the colonial-style Inne at Watson's Choice.

A 3:30 p.m. ribbon cutting will be followed by an open house, reception and tours, open to the public until 6 p.m. Refreshments and appetizers will be served, and business cards will be accepted for a drawing.

The Stable Event Center reflects William and Nancy Ross's entry into the growing special events market. It allows the Inne at Watson's Choice to accommodate 80 or more participants for indoor events. Combined with a screenhouse and courtyard perfect for reunions and weddings, the facility can host as many as 175 guests for indoor/outdoor events.

The Inne at Watson's Choice is a 12-room bed and breakfast. Seven guest rooms are in a two-story, 1820 farmhouse painstakingly renovated using 19th Century materials. Four other guest rooms, including a suite, are in the Harvest House, built in 2001. Each room has its own distinctive character, from the Apple Orchard Room to the Laurel Suite. All sit on a 42-acre portion of the estate settled by Revolutionary War soldier John Watson.

A former retail manager and French teacher, respectively, William and Nancy Ross left those roles to pursue running their own business pampering guests in an enriching setting.

Seeking to capture events business, the Rosses received technical assistance from the St. Vincent College Small Business Development Center, and obtained a mentor from the Service

Corps of Retired Executives. For financing, they turned to The Progress Fund, a leading nonprofit provider of capital for new or growing tourism-oriented businesses.

“When Bill and Nancy brought us their plan, we knew it was the kind of asset we would be proud to back,” said David A. Kahley, President & CEO of The Progress Fund. “The Inne at Watson’s Choice gives the 1.5 million annual visitors to Fayette County a lodging option that combines history, comfort, and prices within reach of many travelers, and now it’s the perfect place for a conference or mid-sized event, too.”

“The Progress Fund was sympathetic to our cause and understood the seasonal nature of the lodging business,” said William Ross. Besides providing a \$112,000 loan with terms tailored to the hospitality industry’s cash flow, The Progress Fund helped arrange another \$50,000 in financing from the state’s First Industries Tourism Program.

The expansion creates four new jobs.

Located four miles from Uniontown on Route 21 West, the Inne at Watson’s Choice is 12 miles or less from numerous tourist destinations, including Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob, Ohiopyle and the Fort Necessity Battlefields. For directions or interviews, call William or Nancy Ross at 1-888-820-5380 or e-mail to innkeeper@watsonschoice.com.

For further information on The Progress Fund, call (724) 216-9160, 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 \$19.8 million to 219 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 1,630 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 .