

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: David A. Kahley  
President & CEO  
The Progress Fund  
(724) 216-9160  
dkahley@progressfund.org

Joseph A. Auteri  
Co-owner  
Heritage Suites  
(814) 598-1169  
JAuteri@koaspeer.com

### **Heritage Suites invites Bradford for a taste of hospitality**

*Community institutions, The Progress Fund helped Auteri family combine charm, amenities*

Bradford, PA – July 17, 2008 – Heritage Suites will hold its Grand Opening on Wednesday, July 30, giving the community a taste of the top-of-the-line amenities and small-town charm that are already making it a travelers' favorite.

Starting at 5 p.m., everyone's invited to see the suites, enjoy professionally catered food and drink, and try their luck with a raffle and drawing for door prizes donated by area businesses.

The Grand Opening promises to be a signature event at the Bradford Area Chamber of Commerce's Summer Soiree.

The 16-suite, \$1.45 million establishment opened in April, and has already become an important factor in the area's economic development. "Based on our current occupancy rate, I think it has secured additional long-term guests for the immediate area," says Joe Auteri, whose family transformed a former assisted living home into Heritage Suites. "This brings revenue to area restaurants, golf courses, grocers, dry cleaners and others."

The Auteri family has extensive experience managing properties, but Heritage Suites is its first redevelopment project, and it was a team effort. The Clarion University Small Business Development Center helped with business planning. The Small Business Administration and the Bradford Office of Economic and Community Development provided funding.

The Progress Fund initially planned to provide a small fraction of funding, but when needs changed the nonprofit community development financial institution boosted its commitment to a \$425,000 loan and arranged a \$200,000 loan from the state's First Industries Fund.

Now Heritage Suites is the perfect place to stay for business or pleasure. In a quiet spot close to town, it features spacious rooms with wireless Internet service, full kitchenettes, flat screen TVs, and whirlpool tubs in some units.

It is expected to provide eight new jobs.

For the Auteri family, Heritage Suites has taken their commitment to Bradford to a new level. “We've lived here all of our lives,” says Joe. "We're putting something back into the community. There is so much more we would like to do here and the feeling we are getting from this first big venture is that it can be done.”

Reporters are welcome from 5 p.m. on. For directions or interviews, e-mail [JAuteri@koaspeer.com](mailto:JAuteri@koaspeer.com) or call (814) 598-1169.

For further information on The Progress Fund, call (724) 216-9160, or visit [www.progressfund.org](http://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 made 254 loans totaling more than \$23.5 million to 163 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 1,816 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 .