

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Pervis Major
Co-owner
The Confluence Resort
(304) 573-4900
pervis@confluenceresort.com

The Confluence Resort drawing more families to Fayette County *The Progress Fund backs two new chalets, sets stage for more expansions*

Fayetteville, WV – April 6, 2009 – The beauty of the Gauley River National Recreation Area is now more family-friendly than ever, with The Confluence Resort’s enhanced ability to accommodate vacations, wedding parties, reunions and more.

“One of the things that has not been available around here is a high-quality rental house, similar to the quality you’d expect if you went to Hilton Head,” says Pervis Major, co-owner of The Confluence Resort with his wife, Kimberly. That has changed with the Fayette County resort’s growth from one to three luxury chalets.

The area’s assortment of activities, long dominated by rafting, has also expanded with the development of the resort’s wedding overlook, camp sites, six miles of trails and more. “We’re about relaxation and enjoying the outdoors,” says Pervis. “We’re about going for a hike, going for a swim, going for a bike ride, or just having a picnic.”

A \$498,000 loan from The Progress Fund helped The Confluence Resort to grow. The low interest rate frees the resort to plan a coming expansion to five chalets.

“If I wasn’t able to get the loans from The Progress Fund, I would have likely had to stop at two” chalets, says Pervis. “From the time I contacted them and identified the project and they came down and expressed interest, we moved to a commitment very quickly.”

Raised in Morgantown, Pervis joined an accounting software firm in Washington, D.C., and spent 20 years there. He returned to West Virginia to start a resort, and after two years of searching, settled on a 305-acre site where the Gauley and Meadow rivers meet.

Since 2005, The Confluence Resort has grown from a single lodge to three luxury chalets – built almost entirely with locally purchased materials by area craftsmen. Business is up dramatically, and guests that might have stayed a weekend in a rustic cabin are instead spending a week at the resort, boosting the area’s restaurants, gift shops, grocery stores and outfitters.

For directions or interviews, call Pervis Major at (304) 573-4900. For details on The Confluence Resort, visit www.confluenceresort.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 made 259 loans totaling more than \$23.8 million to 164 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 1,820 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 .