

Great Allegheny Passage continues to grow

June 24, 2008 – Greensburg, Meyersdale and Rockwood, PA

The Progress Fund is pleased to announce its acquisition of the Levi Deal Mansion Bed & Breakfast in Meyersdale. Open since early 2007 and catering to Great Allegheny Passage trail users, the business remains under the daily management of Innkeeper Kim Smith.



“Our acquisition of Levi Deal Mansion is fitting because The Progress Fund is home to the Trail Town Program, which works to engage and promote trail communities,” remarked David Kahley, President and CEO of The Progress Fund. “Lodging is a key to continued

increases in visitation to the Great Allegheny Passage, and we view this as an opportunity to influence overnight stays along one of the most scenic sections of the trail.”

The Trail Town Program recently completed an economic impact study in partnership with Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau and Allegheny Trail Alliance and learned that overnight trail visitors spend an average of \$98 a day in trail communities, versus local and day users spending just \$13 a day. Somerset County trail businesses reported an X% increase in gross revenues from 2006 to 2007, and lodging properties attributed X% of sales, on average, to the trail market.

The restored mansion is a 15-room Chateausque style home built in 1900. The mansion and adjacent carriage house include five guest suites and are located on

Meyers Avenue, a tree-lined street situated between the Great Allegheny Passage trail access and the Meyersdale business district. Reservations can be made at www.levidealmansion.com or by phone at (814) 289-7600.

The Progress Fund's work along the Great Allegheny Passage includes a recent loan to the Hostel on Main in Rockwood, PA. Please see <http://popcitymedia.com/developmentnews/rockwoodhostel0624.aspx> for more details.

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, Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has made 275 loans totaling more than \$28.8 million to 173 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 2,047 jobs.

The Progress Fund is an equal opportunity provider and employer.