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Contact: David A. Kahley
President & CEO
The Progress Fund
(724) 216-9160 Ext. 310
dkahley@progressfund.org

Mary Lou and Rob Rendulic
Owners
Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast and The Annex Inn
(724) 872-0792
mlrendulic@yahoo.com

Trailblazing Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast doubles down *The Progress Fund backs expansion of successful trail town business*

West Newton, PA – May 15, 2013 – One of the pioneers of West Newton's trail-powered rebirth is expanding this month. Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast is opening a second guest house, The Annex Inn, which features three lovely rooms and a dining area that brings a new level of hospitality to one of the Youghiogheny River's most vibrant towns. Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast and The Annex Inn will be on display Friday, May 17 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. as they celebrate their grand opening and offer tours of the newest overnight accommodations available along the Great Allegheny Passage in West Newton, PA.

Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast opened in 2001, and its bookings have grown with the nearby Great Allegheny Passage's bike and foot traffic. As the 140-year-old house has become known to travelers and B&B aficionados, owners Mary Lou and Rob Rendulic have had to turn away guests. When the house next door went up for sale, they decided it was time to grow.

Part Two of Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast, The Annex Inn, features painstakingly renovated fixtures, woodwork, pocket doors and more. “The rooms are larger, and each room has a bathroom, shower, tub, more like a luxury bathroom,” says Mary Lou. The ground floor features indoor and outdoor dining areas in which Rob, a chef, offers specialty dinners like his seafood lasagna, grilled ribs, kebabs and gourmet sandwiches – “Things they wouldn't expect to get in West Newton,” he says. Locally grown food is featured.

The Rendulics sought a loan to finance the expansion, but got little encouragement from banks. They consulted with the Trail Town Program, which referred them to its parent organization, The Progress Fund. The Progress Fund arranged \$100,000 of financing for the \$115,000 expansion. This project was financed in part using Pennsylvania Small Business Credit Initiative (PSBCI) funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

The expanded Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast is booking its new rooms now.

“I don't think we've had anything like this ever in this town,” says Mary Lou. Then again, she adds, “I think the whole atmosphere of where we live and what we see is changing.”

To interview the Rendulics, call 724-872-0792 or email mlrendulic@yahoo.com. Also, check out www.brightmorning.net.

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 40 counties of Pennsylvania, the State of West Virginia, Western Maryland, and Appalachian Ohio. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has made 410 loans totaling more than \$47.7 million to 250 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 2,976 jobs. The Progress Fund is an Equal Opportunity Lender.