

Project Profile



Location:

129 Jefferson Court
West Newton, PA
www.brightmorning.net

County:

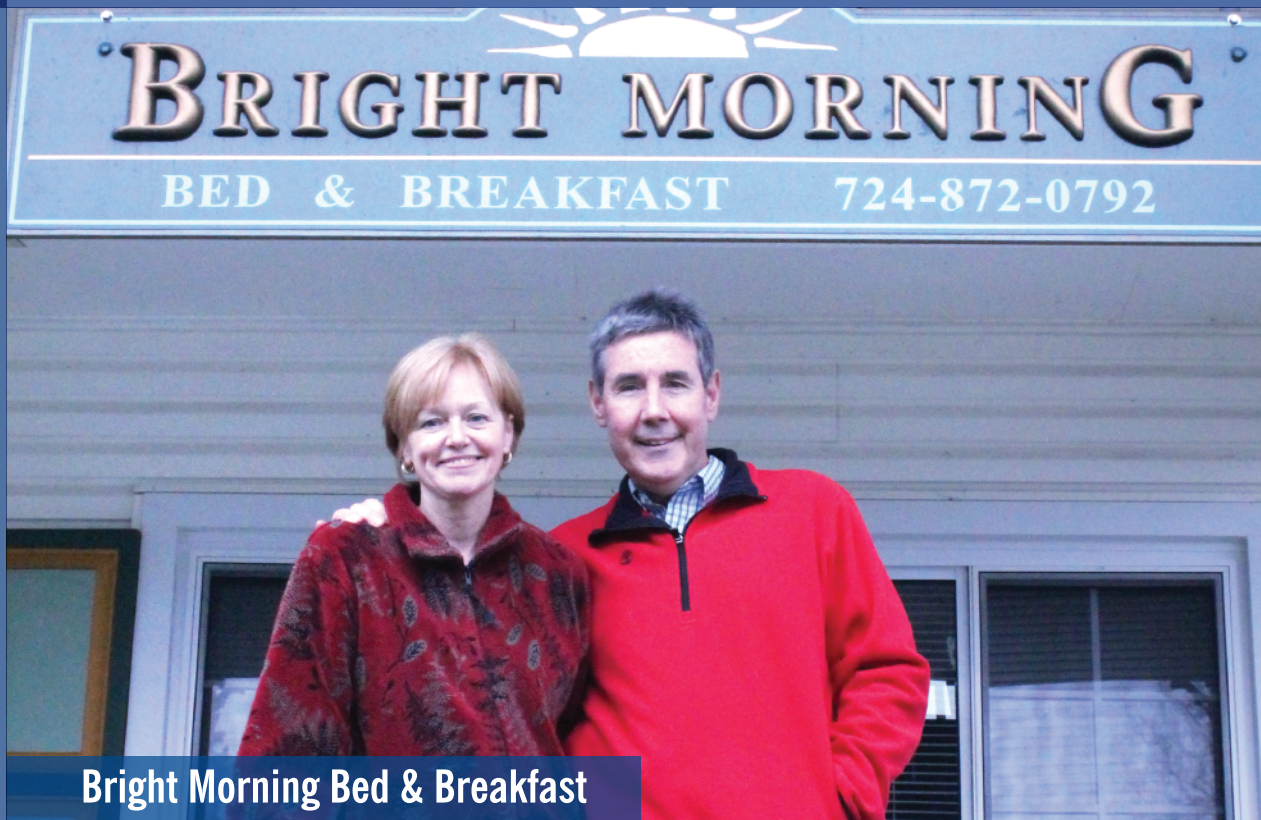
Westmoreland

Description:

Business Expansion

Total Project Cost:

\$115,000



Bright Morning Bed & Breakfast



People:

When Mary Lou Rendulic bought an old house by the Youghiogheny River in 2001, she intended to teach piano there. There was room for guests, so by year's end a Bed & Breakfast was born. A decade of growing traffic on the nearby Great Allegheny Passage helped to fill the Bright Morning's guest book. "We've had people who have walked 150 miles," says Mary Lou, as well as trail users from South America and Africa. But not everything was bright; Next door sat a vacant and decaying home.

Progress:

Mary Lou pondered expanding and sought a bank loan to buy the neighboring eyesore. "I had to fill out all the papers and had all the hope, and then got the feeling that, 'We're not going to finance you. You're just a little lady,'" she says. Then serendipity came knocking... The Trail Town

Program suggested she expand with a \$100,000 loan provided by The Progress Fund.

Impact:

Mary Lou and her husband Rob bought the 140-year-old house, are restoring woodwork, pocket doors and vintage light fixtures on their way to doubling and enhancing their B&B offerings. "The rooms are larger, and each room has a bathroom, shower, tub," says Mary Lou. The ground floor is now a dining room, allowing Rob, a chef, to offer delicacies like seafood lasagna. It's not what you'd expect in a little town. Mary Lou says, "I think the whole atmosphere where we live is changing." The truth is Mary Lou and Rob are changing it.

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.