

Project Profile



Location:

504-506 Main Street
Rockwood, PA
hostelonmain.com

County:

Somerset

Description:

Business Development

Total Project Cost:

\$155,000



The Hostel on Main

People:

First, Judy Pletcher bought a feed store and long-shuttered opera house, and turned it into a retail and service center. Second, she converted the home next door into an antique shop. Third, a 99-year-old former grocery store went up for sale. "It was like, what are we going to do with this?" she recalls. Rockwood's position on the Great Allegheny Passage trail, between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, gave her the answer. "Let's try a hostel."

Progress:

Judy contacted the Trail Town Program, operated by The Progress Fund. As a business providing a key service along the Great Allegheny Passage, The Progress Fund provided a \$75,000 loan from the state's First Industries Tourism Program, a bridge loan, and help financing energy-efficiency improvements.

Impact:

The Hostel on Main can sleep 24 in three rooms, configured to accommodate anything from a family to a scout troop. It adds an important product to Rockwood's mix of lodgings. "With our two B & B's and our campground, and our hostel accommodating 24 people, hopefully we can become a destination for larger groups," says Judy. With its restored wood floors, tin ceilings and energy-efficient appliances, it combines the best of old and new. Says Judy: "We're trying to keep it as rustic – and comfortable – as possible."

The Progress Fund is an equal opportunity provider and employer.