

Project Profile



Location:

108 East Pitt Street
Bedford, PA

County:

Bedford

Description:

Business Expansion

Total Project Cost:

\$35,000



LIFeSTYLE - Living Italian Food e Style

People:

Small town woman goes to Italy, finds love, and brings him – and a taste for the Old Country – back to live the American dream. The villain in this plot? Tight credit. After Sarah and Stefano Ferrari left Milan for her hometown of Bedford, they began importing top-quality Italian food to, in her words, “share what we learned over there, and share some of that culture with the community.” When they sought financing, bankers “were like, ‘Oh, yeah, that’s a nice idea, good luck.’”

Progress:

In walked repeat customer David Kahley, who mentioned that he was President and CEO of The Progress Fund, a lender that specializes in small-town development. “We celebrated our agreement over a bottle of wine and some cheese

in our home a couple of weeks later,” says Sarah. The Progress Fund loaned \$35,000 for a new in store kitchen and dining area to show off their foods.

Impact:

LIFeSTYLE is becoming the place for a very special meal – the reservations-only, three-hour, make-new-friends-for-life kind. Even as they add another amenity to Bedford, they’re aiming to become an attraction in their own right, through their new website. “I want people to see our store, like our store,” says Sarah, “and then come to Bedford.” A happy ending, indeed.

The Progress Fund is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

