

## Project Profile



### Location:

117 Numetrics Road  
Vanderbilt, PA

### County:

Fayette

### Description:

Business Development

### Total Project Cost:

\$402,500



## Seams Like Home



### People:

When Donna Eicher sits down to sew, she knows where each stitch will take her. But when she started taking in sewing jobs in the early 1990s, no one could have foreseen the result. She and husband Richard became sewing equipment dealers with a Uniontown storefront, then expanded to offer classes and sell fabric. Outgrowing their space again, they hemmed and hawed only briefly before deciding to expand once more. "I thought, 'How about a quilting retreat?'" Donna says.

### Progress:

Banks were willing to lend, but a friend told Donna about The Progress Fund and its partnership with the state First Industries Tourism Program. The Progress Fund loaned \$280,000, arranged a loan

from the state First Industries Tourism Program of \$100,000, and even introduced Donna to another retreat's owners who shared their experiences.

### Impact:

The Eichers bought an empty office building on four wooded acres. While some retreats are rustic, they're putting the focus on comfort and art. Rooms have private baths, and visitors move through a seamless day of delicious meals, classes, sewing, pressing and camaraderie. "When they come," says Donna, "they can just be totally creative and get a lot of sewing inspiration and just focus on that part of it without having to worry about cooking or having phones ringing."

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