Project Profile



Location:

456 Kin-Mill Road Summit Mills, PA

County:

Somerset

Description:

Business Expansion Loan

Total Project Cost: \$345,000





People:

Shopkeeping started out as a hobby for Ada Yoder, but the combination of discount groceries and Amish customer service brought in more business than expected. So after four years of booming sales from a converted mobile home, Ada and husband Mervin decided to expand. They found the perfect location — a former church built in 1846 — and a bank willing to lend most of the renovation costs. But they were still \$75,000 short.

Progress:

Luckily the Yoders' banker, Lee Newell of First National Bank, knew whom to call. The Progress Fund quickly reviewed the business plan and agreed to lend the remaining \$75,000.

Impact:

Summit Discount Groceries continues to offer inexpensive, high-quality foods. The Yoders have added an Amish crafts section with dolls, grandfather clocks, paintings, rocking chairs and children's toys — "Unique stuff you can't buy at Wal-Mart," says Ada. The renovated church, with its original beams and trusses exposed, is the area's newest tourist draw. What was once a hobby has become an economic workhorse.

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