



A nonprofit corporation improving our communities and environment through financing and project development

PRESS RELEASE 6/21/01
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAY-PENN RECEIVED PROGRESS AWARD

Fay-Penn Economic Development Council, located in Uniontown, received the first annual Progress Award, which is designated for organizations that make a meaningful contribution to heritage development throughout the “Westsylvania” region (centrally located in Southwestern Pennsylvania between the Blue Mountains and Ohio River Valley). David Kahley, President of The Progress Fund, presented the Award on Friday June 22 at the Fay-Penn Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting.

“Fay-Penn Economic Development Council has exemplified the best characteristics of this award,” said Kahley. “Fay-Penn created and implemented a highly successful Tourism Revolving Loan Fund that has advanced the awareness and expansion of the tourism industry and has brought about the creation of four businesses that generated thirty-three new jobs in Fayette County.” This fund is one of Fay-Penn’s latest tourism initiatives.

The Fay-Penn Economic Development Council is a non-profit organization focused on improving the quality of life in Fayette County. Fay-Penn’s mission is to maintain and increase employment opportunities (jobs) in Fayette County in an effort to improve the quality of life for all of its residents. This mission is met through a comprehensive strategy of specific economic development objectives and by providing superior services to its clients. The organization primarily focuses on the technology and manufacturing sectors in addition to a concentration on tourism and infrastructure development. Fay-Penn has been a leader in tourism development for several years. They are the only economic development agency in the state that has a tourism development specialist on staff.



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“We are very pleased to be receiving this award and have a good business partnership with The Progress Fund,” said Fay-Penn Director of Finance, Bob Urban. “Through a united effort, we have been able to employ public and private resources to improve commerce and employment opportunities in Fayette County.” “Fay-Penn appreciates the recognition by The Progress Fund, who has been an excellent resource in supporting our tourism efforts in Fayette County,” said Mike Krajovic, Fay-Penn Executive Vice President.

To date, Fay-Penn Economic Development Council and The Progress Fund have worked together to provide six joint loans totaling over \$528,000 in project financing in Fayette County. These loans included: Lenora’s Inn and Restaurant in Perryopolis, Caileigh’s Restaurant in Uniontown, Topo’s Restaurant in Markleysburg, Kentuck Knob in Chalk Hill, Hazelbaker Recreational Services in Layton and the Carriage House in Balsinger.

The Progress Fund is a spin-off of Congressman John Murtha’s Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission. The Fund is an equal opportunity lender whose mission is to create economic renewal by lending needed capital and providing technical assistance to small travel and tourism-related businesses in a nine-county rural region of southwestern Pennsylvania. The Fund’s loan portfolio includes 72 loans, which have created over 250 jobs. “I am pleased that The Progress Fund is creating jobs in the heritage tourism industry for our region and wish them good luck,” said Congressman Murtha.

For more information on The Progress Fund, Westsylvania or Fay-Penn, please call 724-437-7913.

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