



Chris Higbee

Location:
Dawson, PA

County:
Fayette

Description:
Equipment Loan

Total Project Cost:
\$40,000



People:

The PovertyNeck Hillbillies sing about “making hay, chopping wood, tractors, that kind of thing,” says band founder Chris Higbee. “Everyone can relate to it.” Their gutsy sound and no-nonsense values epitomize rural Pennsylvania. As they packed larger and larger local venues and booked more and more national gigs, the band sought to upgrade their live sound. But who lends money to up-and-coming country bands?

Progress:

The Progress Fund recognized that the PovertyNeck Hillbillies draw people into Pennsylvania, and communicate the region’s vibrancy and values to audiences nationwide. The Progress Fund loaned Chris Higbee, \$40,000 – enough to purchase a top-shelf public address system.

Impact:

The PovertyNeck Hillbillies are taking their improved sound to venues from Maine to Florida, North Carolina to Iowa. Their Pennsylvania shows bring in fans from several states around. They employ seven musicians and a growing staff. “We’re still the small fish in a very big bowl,” says Higbee. “But as we grow, the people around us grow with it.” Everyone can relate to that, too.

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