

Project Profile



Location:

190 Maple Summit Road
Mill Run, PA

County:

Fayette

Description:

Business expansion loan

Total Project Cost:

\$155,000



The Appalachian Mountain Inn

People:

Nicole Kruse has a unique vantage point for observing Ohiopyle's evolution as an adventure destination. Nicole runs Ohiopyle Photography, the business that photographs whitewater rafters as they battle the rapids, plus a gift shop. She and her fiancé – like her sister and their parents — have also invested in vacation rental houses. Nicole's cash flow is seasonal, and she was a little short when a house across the street from her home suddenly became available. "The opportunity came up and we just had to figure it out as fast as we could," she says.

Progress:

Nicole knew that most traditional banks would turn up their noses at her cash flow. She worked with The Progress Fund, which loaned \$124,000 — 80% of the purchase price. "They can see the vision that banks cannot," she says.

Impact:

As a skier engaged to a snowboarder, Nicole has a vision for the Ohiopyle area that goes beyond whitewater. "We need to become more of a year-round destination," she says. The missing piece is lodging, and she and her family members are addressing that with vacation rentals. They're adding a hot tub and planning a game room, so guests can "go for a hike in the snow and have a place to come back to and cook a meal and go into the hot tub and have a fire in the evening."

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The Progress Fund is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

