

Project Profile

Location:

115 Mill Run Road
Normalville, PA

County:

Fayette

Description:

Business expansion

Total Project Cost:

\$170,000



The Springfield House

People:

When Pam Kruse visited Gatlinburg, she saw the future of the Laurel Highlands. "How similar we are to that area, minus that we just don't have all of the shops and stuff," she said of the thriving Tennessee town in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains. Gatlinburg, she said, gives visitors an array of opportunities to spend not only time, but money. "The worst thing that can happen in a tourist area is that people go back home with money in their pockets," Pam says.

Progress:

Pam and her wife, Jessica, have been buying houses and renting them to both vacationers and seasonal contractors. When a three-bedroom house and commercial building on 4.6 acres of land went up for sale, they saw a chance to add something

new to the area's offerings. The Progress Fund loaned them \$136,000 toward the purchase.

Impact:

At their new property, the Kruses set about adding amenities like a hot tub, pool and giant playset, while repurposing the commercial building to handle parties, weddings and other gatherings. That means business for caterers, florists, shopkeepers and more. "That's all money that goes back into the local economy," says Pam. Alone, it won't turn the Laurel Highlands into Gatlinburg. But it will get it a little closer.

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