

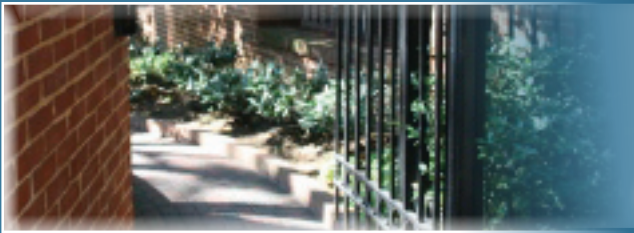
Community *E*Works

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Saying Good-Bye to Winter . . .

And Hello to Traveling Down the Road Ahead!

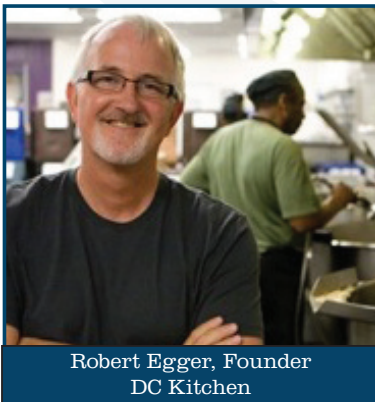
Community First's Loan Fund Hits a Milestone

Since the beginning of Community First Fund in 1992, the organization has made 907 loans and has recently reached \$40.2 million in loan capital put into businesses and communities. These loans have created 3,408 jobs, 562 affordable housing units and enabled more than 1,000,000 square feet of commercial development. In FY 2011 Community First is on track to serve more than 1,000 people in the community.

Community First Fund Has National Impact

The U.S. Small Business Administration is widening its loan guarantee program thanks in part to the testimony of Community First's President and CEO Dan Betancourt. Last month the SBA announced a pilot program called Community Advantage that would extend its 7(a) loan guarantee program to qualified community nonprofit organizations who are not overseen by federal or state regulators. By doing this the SBA is reaching out to underserved communities and expanding its volume of smaller scale loans. In July 2010 Dan Betancourt was part of a panel that spoke before the Federal Reserve on improving small business access to credit. Community Advantage is expected to be in place this spring.

Save the Date!



Robert Egger, Founder
DC Kitchen

Thanks to everyone who made the 2010 Friends of the Fund Luncheon such a great success. We are pleased to announce the 2011 Friends of the Fund Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, November 4th, at the Lancaster Marriot at Penn Square. The Networking Reception will begin at 11am and Lunch will be served at noon. The keynote speaker for the event is Robert Egger, Founder and President of D.C. Kitchen. Email marketing@commfirstfund.org for information on Sponsorship Opportunities for the 2011 Friends of the Fund event.

Announcements!

Community First Fund is pleased to announce that Mary Kay Eckenrode is leading our Harrisburg Office as of February 1, 2011 as Director of Community Lending. She provides loans, technical assistance and ongoing support to Capital Region businesses and core communities. Please feel free to contact Mary Kay by phone at 717-920-1520 or by email at: meckenrode@commfirstfund.org.

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Client Feature

For nearly four decades Berks Women in Crisis has been fighting domestic and sexual violence and advocating for women within the community. Since its beginnings in the 1970s as a volunteer-based organization, BWIC has provided shelter and access to numerous resources to women seeking to leave abusive situations and in the process has helped to restore safety and stability in their lives. BWIC operates an emergency shelter in conjunction with short-term transitional housing. In addition, they offer supportive services such as individual counseling and staff assistance both at the hospital and at court proceedings.



Mary Kay Bernosky, Executive Director
Berks Women in Crisis

Community First Fund is especially proud to finance and support a collaborative effort to aid Berks Women in Crisis in constructing a larger facility. This complex will not only house their various services, but will also provide expanded shelter space and longer term housing for women and their families. By building this facility BWIC will be able to operate more efficiently and improve access to their services for women and families seeking help. This project is expected to greatly improve the success rate for women escaping crisis situations.

Upcoming Women's Business Center Training Events

Community First Fund is hosting Step One, a training session on how to start your own business on Friday, March 4 at 9am at our Lancaster Office. Learn the important questions to ask yourself and get the tools to evaluate your business idea. Please join us for what will be an informative and interactive experience. Get ready to take the first step toward planning your business. For more information please feel free to contact the Women's Business Center at #717-393-2351 or by email at mcullison@commfirstfund.org.