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FULTON BANKS ON COMMUNITY FIRST FUND

Local leaders to celebrate Fulton Bank's investment and ribbon cutting of the newly opened natural foods market, Expressly Local Food.

Lancaster, PA... Community First Fund is thrilled to announce Fulton Bank's \$500,000 investment in its loan fund at Expressly Local Food, a new natural foods market owned by Kharran Cattell and Cheryl Young. Expressly Local Foods is located in Lancaster city and is a Community First Fund loan customer. The announcement and celebration will begin today, February 3rd, at 3:30 pm at 213 West King Street.

Fulton Bank's investment allows Community First to lend money to people like Gene Aleci, President of Community Heritage Partners (CHP) and the owner of the building that houses Expressly Local. In turn, Aleci was able to renovate the building which had been occupied by various entities since the 1960s when the former owners, the Beittles, ceased business operations. Renovations however had not been done since that time and the upper floors of the building have been vacant for more 50 years. Now, after considerable work and improvements by Aleci, the first floor of the building houses three businesses – Expressly Local Foods, Not Bad Design, and Community Heritage Partners.

While Expressly Local Food's new location opened several months ago the official grand opening with a ribbon cutting by Mayor Rick Gray will be held today. The business formerly operated out of Lititz Farmer's Market and Lancaster's Eastern Market. The business is all about "local food for local folks," and focuses on providing natural and locally grown and made products year round. Owners Kharran Cattell and Cheryl Young are committed to playing a significant role in sustaining local business by using as many suppliers as possible from Lancaster.

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Founded in 1992 Community First Fund's impact is felt throughout the 13 counties in central Pennsylvania that it serves as evidenced by the more than 825 loans that the organization has disbursed since inception, totaling nearly \$33 million. Community First Fund is committed to de-concentrating poverty and growing prosperity in central Pennsylvania by providing equitable financial services, technical knowledge and advocacy for its customers. Community First Fund has offices in Lancaster, Reading, York, Harrisburg, and Exton. www.commfirstfund.org