



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SBA AWARDS ITS 2010 “EASTERN PA COMMUNITY/RURAL LENDER OF THE YEAR” TO COMMUNITY FIRST FUND

Announcement held at Aladdin Restaurant in West Reading.

Reading, PA...On May 5th at Aladdin Restaurant in West Reading, the SBA's Philadelphia District Office will formally announce that Community First Fund is the winner of its 2010 “Eastern Pennsylvania Community/Rural Lender of the Year” award. In honor of this achievement, the District Director of the SBA's Philadelphia District Office, David Dickson, will appear at Aladdin's, a business that has directly benefitted from Community First Fund's assistance. The restaurant is located at **401 Penn Avenue, West Reading, PA 19611-1131** and the event will begin at **9:30 a.m.**

Community First Fund's President and CEO Daniel Betancourt said, “We are thrilled to receive this award. The SBA has been a partner of Community First for many years and we are honored to be recognized for the work that we have been able to accomplish through their support.”

Community First Fund has been providing microloans, defined by the SBA as loans under \$35,000, since inception in 1992. Using this loan type, Community First was able to help Alexandre Borkhoche open Aladdin Restaurant in West Reading. After purchasing a former Getty gas station, Alexandre approached Community First for a loan to renovate the location. Taking pride in representing his Lebanese heritage, Alexandre decorated the entire restaurant to reflect his culture. The restaurant which features Mediterranean delights is doing well and Alexandre is planning to complete further renovations.

The SBA award will be presented to Community First Fund at the annual “SBA Day at the Ballpark” event on May 6, 2010. The event will start with a 10:00 a.m. awards ceremony and luncheon at “Chickie's & Pete's,” a sports-themed restaurant and local favorite, at its Packer Avenue location—1526 Packer Avenue, Philadelphia, PA—followed by a 1:05 p.m. Phillies game at nearby Citizens Bank Park. This SBA Philadelphia District Office's May 6, 2010 event is a local observance of the Presidentially-designated National Small Business Week which will be observed in Washington, D.C., on May 23-25. The week honors many outstanding small business owners from around the country and culminates in the announcement of the National Small Business Person of the Year.

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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. Community First Fund's Reading office is located at 505 Penn Street, 2nd Floor. Further information can be found at www.commfirstfund.org

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