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Press Release: December 4, 2008

**COMMUNITY FIRST FUND WELCOMES NATIONAL SPEAKER AND HONORS
LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS AT ITS ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**

Lancaster, PA.... Community First Fund is holding its annual Friends of the Fund awards dinner on Thursday, November 20th at the Eden Resort Inn and Suites. The event begins at 6 pm with a cocktail reception followed by dinner and remarks by keynote speaker Dr. Randal Pinkett, Founder, Chairman and CEO, BCT Partners. The dinner will also serve as a venue to recognize those who have helped Community First Fund in achieving its success, and honor those who have benefited from its services.

Presented at the dinner are the James Hyson Awards, given to clients and advocates who exemplify the vision of Community First Fund's founder. The 2008 James Hyson Entrepreneur Award recipients are Juan and Lisa Garcia, owners of El Sol Mexican Restaurant located in Harrisburg. Also receiving the Entrepreneur Award are Chris Hovan and Damorow Jones, owners of Metals Your Way located in Temple, a Reading suburb. They are being honored for their dedication and spirit of entrepreneurship. The James Hyson Advocate Award recipient is Bill Allen of Commerce Bank for his continued support of Community First Fund and its clients.

Keynote speaker Pinkett's BCT Partners is his fifth business venture, a consulting services firm with expertise in housing and economic development, healthcare, human services and education. In addition to his current venture, Dr. Pinkett was the winner of NBC's "The Apprentice" with Donald Trump. Dr. will speak about his experiences as an entrepreneur.

Community First Fund President and CEO Daniel Betancourt' speech will focus on the organization's fiscal year 2007 successes, its overall financial strength, and its commitment to the entrepreneurs and in an uncertain economy. Betancourt's address will reflect the event's theme – celebrating the ripple effect and demonstrate the impact that it has across central PA and its small cities and towns.

Community First Fund is a non-profit loan fund that provides business financing, training, and one-on-one counseling to entrepreneurs of all sizes, affordable housing and commercial real estate developers, and community groups in under-served communities. Community First Fund's impact is felt throughout the 13 counties in central Pennsylvania that it serves as evidenced by the more than 700 loans that the organization has disbursed since inception, totaling more than \$24 million.

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