

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Community Leaders Gather for Announcement of Investment Benefiting Local Entrepreneurs

Lancaster, PA...Local leaders including Mayor Gray will gather today at 9 am for the announcement of a \$450,000 investment from Susquehanna Bank to Community First Fund. Community First Fund is a nonprofit financial intermediary serving central Pennsylvania that provide loans and technical assistance to entrepreneurs such as Leo Rodriguez. Rodriguez, the owner of Hair at DFB studios, will host the event at his business located at 37 East Orange Street, Lancaster.

John H. Montgomery, Senior Executive Vice President of Susquehanna Bank said, "Our bank has played a role in community development here in central Pennsylvania since it was founded more than a century ago. As we continue this work today, we believe Community First Fund is a strong partner. An investment like the one Susquehanna is making provide entrepreneurs with funding. By offering technical assistance and educational opportunities, Community First Fund helps business owners develop additional expertise so they can make the most of these investments."

Daniel Betancourt, President and CEO of Community First Fund echoed these thoughts. "The impact of Susquehanna Bank's investment is endless – one loan can affect numerous people, from the entrepreneur and his or her family, to his/her employees, to local suppliers, all of which support the local economy. Each loan also has an impact in the neighborhood in which it is made – in terms of improved properties, access to goods and services and in the creation of jobs."

Community First Fund is central Pennsylvania's premiere economic development organization. Serving thirteen counties through five regional offices, Community First Fund provides business counseling and training and loans to new and emerging small businesses. Founded in 1992, its mission is to create lasting economic growth for its communities by providing equitable financial services, technical knowledge, and advocacy for its customers. Community First Fund is a nationally certified and top rated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that disburses more than 100 loans annually and currently has a loan fund of more than \$10 million. For more information, go to www.commfirstfund.org.

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