



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Stephanie N. Kessler
Senior Associate, Marketing
Phone: 717-393-2351, ext. 112
Fax: 717-393-1757
skessler@commfirstfund.org

Press Release: September 8, 2008

Trio of Talent: Chestnut Hill Café Welcomes the Community

Local leaders to attend ribbon cutting of the newly opened coffee shop and eatery

Lancaster, PA.... Community First Fund fulfills dreams one client at a time, though in this case, it is three clients. Stephanie Bennett, Doreen Landis, and Paula Light are the owners of Chestnut Hill Café, a new, thriving coffee shop and eatery. A former grocery store left vacant for several years, Chestnut Hill Café is a welcome business to Lancaster City's West End. Community First provided two loans to Bennett, Landis and Light for the purchase of the building and for inventory.

The ceremony to be held today at 5 pm at the Café – located at 345 West Chestnut Street- will include words from Lancaster's Mayor Gray, SBA Deputy District Director Mike Wilk, Community First Fund President, Dan Betancourt and Vice President, Joan Brodhead. The proprietors of Chestnut Hill Café will offer free coffee and fudge samples; will have live music, played by local musician Bobbi Carmitchell; and will have coffee cupping demonstrations. Coffee cupping allows participants to make their own cup of coffee by adding the amount of coffee and water desired.

The Chestnut Hill Café owners also operate PA Fudge Company out of Lancaster's Central Market. Bennett, Landis, and Light purchased the building in which Chestnut Hill Café is located December 2006 and have completed all renovations – both of the café and the second floor apartment – themselves. Bennett is a graphic designer by trade who is primarily responsible for the design and marketing of the Café. Light has more than 15 years experience in the food service industry and manages both PA Fudge and the Café. Also managing both enterprises is Landis who has a master's degree in Cardiac Rehab and Exercise Science.

Community First Fund has a 16-year history of providing loans, business training, and one-on-one counseling to entrepreneurs of all sizes, affordable housing and commercial real estate developers, and community groups in underserved communities. Community First Fund offers seven different loan products

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CHESTNUT HILL CAFÉ CONTINUED

ranging in size from approximately \$10,000 to \$500,000+ depending on the purpose/use and qualifications of the applicants. Community First Fund, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and SBA guaranteed lender, has offices in Lancaster, York, Harrisburg, Reading, and Exton, and serves 13 counties in Central Pennsylvania. Community First Fund's impact is felt by the nearly 700 loans recipients, to whom organization has provided financing since inception, totaling more than \$22 million.

Further information about Community First Fund and its programs can be found at www.commfirstfund.org. Chestnut Hill Café's new Web site address is www.chestnuthillcafe.com.

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