

## **Hazelbaker Recreational Services**

Don Hasch, Owner

[www.hazelbakerscanoes.com](http://www.hazelbakerscanoes.com)

CDFI: *The Progress Fund*



Don Hasch, owner of Hazelbaker Recreational Services in Layton, PA, has guided adventurers down the Youghiogheny River for years, and had long dreamed of owning a canoe rental and tour business. That dream might not have come true, were it not for The Progress Fund. When Cal Hazelbaker retired, Don saw an opportunity to acquire and grow Cal's canoe and livery rental operation. Like many would-be entrepreneurs in rural areas, he couldn't raise the capital needed. That is, until The Progress Fund stepped in with a \$92,000 loan - the keystone of a \$250,000 financing package. Now Don's adding picnic areas and bike rentals to Hazelbaker's offerings. A business that could have gone under is, instead, riding high.

**The Progress Fund** ([www.progressfund.org](http://www.progressfund.org)) serves southwestern Pennsylvania including Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties and is one of the state's most successful Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). Incorporated in 1997, the Fund has made 99 loans totaling \$9 million, and created or retained more than 600 jobs. The Progress Fund provides expertise and funding to tourism businesses in rural Southwestern Pennsylvania and is helping to rebuild the economy of a region crippled by the decline of mining and manufacturing, doing it business-by-business, job-by-job, providing critical financing and entrepreneurial expertise.

*The Progress Fund is a member of the National Community Capital Association (NCCA), the national member organization of CDFIs. For more information about NCCA's work to provide capital, technical assistance and development services to low-income communities, visit their website at [www.communitycapital.org](http://www.communitycapital.org)*