

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE

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SBA PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE AWARDED COMMUNITY FIRST FUND HONOR

SBA Philadelphia District Office Director David Dickson Accepted the James Hyson Advocate Award on Behalf of District Office at the Fund's Annual "Friends of the Fund" Event

KING OF PRUSSIA, PA --- The SBA's Philadelphia District Office is Community First Fund's 2009 James Hyson Advocate Award winner. Director David Dickson accepted the honor on behalf of the District Office at the Fund's annual "Friends of the Fund" event on November 13, 2009 in Lancaster, PA.

By awarding the District Office this honor, Community First Fund acknowledged the Office's support of its microloan program and Women's Business Center, as well as the Office's provision of guaranteed loans to Fund clients.

"We at the SBA Philadelphia District Office are extremely humbled by this award," said Dickson. "Community First Fund's work is a tremendous fit with this Agency's mission to deliver quality technical assistance and financing options to our nation's small businesses, and we are proud to be able to extend the reach of community-changing organizations like it in any way that we can."

"Every year, the James Hyson Advocate Award is given to an individual or organization that has made singular efforts to further Community First Fund's work in south central Pennsylvania," explained Daniel Betancourt, Community First Fund's President and CEO. "This year, we are pleased to recognize the SBA Philadelphia District Office. Its commitment to referring clients to the Fund--clients to whom the right kind of technical assistance and financing can mean the difference between business success and failure--



SBA Philadelphia District Office Director David Dickson accepts Community First Fund's James Hyson Advocate Award on behalf of the District Office. (R to L): Daniel Betancourt, Community First Fund President and CEO, David Dickson, SBA Philadelphia District Office Director; Joan Brodhead, Senior Vice President and CEO; Robert Torres, Esq., Community First Fund Board of Directors Chair.

has made an immeasurable difference in the economic futures of both the clients, themselves, and of the communities they call home."

Community First Fund is a Lancaster-based non-profit regional community development financial institution. Founded in 1992, Community First Fund is focused on creating and fostering economic possibilities for both aspiring entrepreneurs and the communities in which they are based. Community First Fund has offices in Lancaster, Harrisburg, York, Reading, and Exton that serve a 13-county south central Pennsylvania region. Community First Fund is a 7(a), Community Express, and Patriot Express lender, as well as an SBA microlender.

To request an interview or photographs, please contact Jennifer Pilcher, the SBA's Public Information Officer in the Philadelphia District Office, at 610-382-3084 or jennifer.pilcher@sba.gov.

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The SBA is an independent federal agency, created in 1953, to assist small businesses start, grow, and prosper. The SBA provides financial assistance by: (1) making loans to help families and businesses recover from national disasters and (2) providing loan guarantees to commercial financial institutions for working capital (7a loans), buildings/land/equipment (504 loans through the Certified Development Corporations), and for exports. Through our resource partners, the SBA also offers a variety of business development programs and services such as training, government contracting and export assistance. SBA resource partners include Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, and SCORE (Counselors to America's Small Businesses). For information on the SBA's programs and services contact us at 610-382-3062 or www.sba.gov/pa/phil.